Assad, Demirel discuss water, security

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel discussed ways Tuesday to resolve differences over water sharing and security issues. Their meeting, which lasted more than one hour, also was attended by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and the ministers of economy, irrigation and agriculture. The Turkish side included Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and other senior officials. Diplomatic sources said Ankara and Damascus were especially concerned about the situation in northern Iraq, where the United States and its allies have declared a "no-fly" zone. On the issue of water, Syria hopes to persuade Mr. Demirel to conclude a new Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish agreement for the sharing of the water from the Euphrates River. Experts from the three countries held five days of talks last October over dividing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, but reached no agreement.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

4 Jordanians hurt in Baghdad

eptate

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Jordaman citizens were injured as a result of the missile attack on Baghdad Sunday, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said. Khalid Abdul Munim Daoud, Nidal Mohammad Joudeh and Mawlood Mamdouh were now in good condition while Amjad Tadrous, left hospital after being treated from his injury, the snokesman said

Spanish minister arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Javier Solana arrives here Wednesday on a three-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East, particularly the peace process and Spain's role within the European

Guerrillas shell Israeli allies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) --Guerrillas shelled a post for Israel's militia ally in the Jewish state's South Lebanon "security zone" Tuesday, security sources said. They said at least three artillery shells slammed near a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post in Nabi Taher hill on the edge of the "security zone" but no-one was hurt. SLA artillery fired back at the source of the firing in hills where guerrillas

Shevardnadze visits Iran

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AP) -Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council of Ministers, arrived Tuesday in Tehran and said he hoped his visit would build closer ties with Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Shevardnadze, who became well known as the foreign minister of the former Soviet Union, was met at Mehrabad airport by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, IRNA said. The leader of the former Soviet republic said on arrival that his two-day visit would set the stage for closer cooperation between his country and Iran, the agency said.

Senate panel okays Christopher

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday approved the nomination of Warren Christopher as secretary of state in President-elect Bill Clinton's administration. By a 19-0 vote, the panel referred the nomination to the full Senate, which is expected to give its approval Wednesday, shortly after Mr. Clinton is inaugurated.

Rockets pound Kabul

KABUL (R) — Radical government opponents fired more than 30 rockets into Kabul Tuesday, killing at least three people and wounding 25, Afghan govern-ment officials said. The officials blamed the Hezb-e-Islami party of hardline Mujahedeen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar for the third consecutive day of rocket barrages. The officials launched a sweep to clear government opponents from the capital's outskirts. Residential districts and areas around the presidential palace in central Kabul and near the airport were hit, an official said.

Kohi names banker to economic post

BONN (R) - German Chancelor Helmut Kohl appointed exbanker Guenter Rexrodt as economics minister in a cabinet reshuffle Tuesday. He succeeds Juergen Moellemann, who quit over an influence-peddling scan-

Turkish avalanche toli reaches 53

ANKARA (R) — Rescuers have recovered 53 bodies from the snow in avalanche-hit Ozengiler village in northeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Tuesday. It said three villagers were believed still trapped under homes crushed by the snowside which engulfed most of the bayburt province village Monday. Twenty-one injured people have been rescued.

and the second s

lraq offers unilateral ceasefire

Baghdad describes conditional move as aimed at dialogue; Pentagon, reporting continued skirmishes and moving more firepower, sees 'helpful sign;' Ghali proposes Kuwait force

Russian note describes raids as out of proportion

IRAQ TUESDAY announced a unilateral ceasefire in the "nofly" zones patrolled by allied aircraft and the Pentagon said the announcement was a "helpful

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) headed by President Saddam Hussein said that beginning at 8 a.m Wednesday there would be no more attacks on U.S., French or British planes because of the pending inauguration of

President-elect Bill Clinton.
"The RCC decided the ceasefire beginning Wednesday morning as a gesture of goodwill to-wards the Clinton administration

Combined agency dispatches and through him the American people," the RCC said in a state-

The council said Iraq was also making the offer "to give the new administration time to establish a constructive dialogue."

The United States attacked military targets in northern Iraq Tuesday, the fourth day of attacks in less than a week. An Iraqi military spokesman quoted by the television said

three people were killed in the

attacks Tuesday, bringing the death toll from the raids up to 45. At about 10:40 a.m. (0740 GMT), an F-4G Wild Weasel fired a missile at a surface-to-air

(Continued on page 5)



U.N. patrol passes a convoy of Iraqi and alestinian deportees in the U.N. militarised zone rassuman deportees in the U.N. militarised zone at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border defined by the U.N.

waiting to be resettled as they have been ousted from Kuwait (AFP photo)

Disquiet grows among Gulf allies

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED DISQUIET over renewed U.S.-led military strikes on Iraq burst into the open Tuesday when Italy said anyone with common sense would be concerned about the civilian casual-

There were growing signs of unease elsewhere, notably in key allies France and Britain. Russia expressed concern about civilian casualties and said the raids were

It said a U.N. Security Council meeting was warranted. Arab countries in particular are upset by the bloodshed, and are growing weary of the campaign to

resolutions. But their governments have remained mostly si-

In Washington, speaking as U.S. defence sources reported an American warplane had struck again Tuesday in Iraq's north, sought to play down the emerging divisions among allies that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in

But coalition member Italy left no doubt about its concern. "We are worried about this military escalation and have expressed our feelings," Defence

Minister Salvo Ando told reporters in Rome. (Continued on page 5)

Settlers kill 12-year-old in Gaza

OCCUPTED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers shot dead a 12-year-old Palestinian boy when they opened fire on demonstrators who stoned their car in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, Arabs and military

Palestinians said Jewish settlers opened fire from a car on a road often used by Israelis travelling through the Gaza Strip. They said the boy, Liwa Bakron, was shot through the heart.

Israeli military sources said the incident shooting took place at Saiaive neighbourhood in Gaza City. An initial investigation showed the boy was among a group of youngsters who stoned

Israeli paper

reports plan

to confiscate

Arab land in

E. Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

- Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin's government has taken

the first steps toward confiscating

a large tract of Arab land in Arab

East Jerusalem for Jewish hous-

ing, the Israeli newspaper

Haaretz said Tuesday.

The independent daily said the housing ministry asked the fi-

nance ministry to order exprop-

riation of nearly 200 acres of

Arab land for a new Jewish

Both ministries denied plan-

ning to confiscate the land. But

Bonnie Boxer, spokeswoman for

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, told Reuters: "There is

It was conceived by the pre-

vious right-wing government of

(Continued on page 3)

neighbourhood.

such a plan."

Israelis have shot dead five lehem children under the age of 15 in the Gaza Strip since last Thurs-

Settlers frequently fired on Palestinian stone-throwers in the early days of the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule. But Palestimans said there had not been many shootings by settlers in the last few months. In the West Bank town of Beit

Sahour, Palestinians shot and seriously 'wounded an. Israeli securtruck in an apparent ambush, military sources said.

Soldiers also clamped a curfew on Beit Sahour, radio stations

Radio reports said the attack was at 7:45 a.m. (0545 GMT).
when the tanker arrived at the station to deliver gas. The Israeli guarding the truck, an armed civilian, was shot in the head and taken to a local hospital for treatment, army radio said.

Israell Radio said the assailant also took the guard's gun. It said ity guard escorting a petrol tanker the guard worked for a watchman's company owned by a for-The army imposed a curfew on who was demoted in April 1991 the town and began searching for as punishment for ordering the attackers who shot the guard Palestinian detainees to be at a petrol station near Beth- beaten.

Zemraya is a crossing point into Israel's self-styled "security-zone" in South Lebanon. It has

been blocked with mines and

sand barricades since the evictees

tried to return through it on Dec.

21, four days after they were

then when Israeli soldiers and

allied militiamen fired warning

shots and shells to drive them

Dr. Rantisi described the dis-

patch of a U.N. envoy for talks

with Israeli officials on the crisis

as an attempt to "liquefy" the

He said sanctions not envoys

were needed to force Israel com-

ply with Security Council Resolu-tion 799, which calls for the im-

mediate return of the exiled men.

envoy of U.N. Secretary-General

Boutros Ghali, was on his way to

Israel Tuesday in his second mis-

Chinmaya Gharekhan, special

dispute over the fate.

sion in two weeks.

Two evictees were wounded

expelled.

Evictees threaten to

rush Israeli lines

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon

(R) - Palestinian expellees, lan-

guishing at a tent camp in South

Lebanon, threatened Tuesday to

push through Israeli lines "re-

gardless of the price," in their

The 413 men, expelled by Israel for alleged links to Muslim

militant groups, spent their 34th day in exile battling strong winds and bitter cold amid shortages of

They again lashed out at the United Nations because Western

planes are sent to enforce its

resolutions on Iraq but only en-

"Our state here is tragic," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, the leader

of the group.
"We will be forced to escape

from our tragedy to a new one by

heading to Zemraya regardless of

the price because we can't stay in

this depressing situation suffering

from hunger, thirst and cold," he

quest to return home.

food, fuel and medicine.

voys are sent to Israel.

Clinton settles on foreign appointees

WASHINGTON (AP) - President-elect Bill Clinton has settled on nearly a dozen picks to fill out his foreign policy team, asking officials responsible for Iraq policy and Middle East peace talks to stay on, officials said.

The appointments signal Mi Clinton's intention of closely following President George Bush's hardline against Iraq and his hope for continuity and progress in Middle East peace efforts, the officials said.

They come at a time some officials, including Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, have complained that the presidentelect has been slow in filling major defence and foreign policy

Edward Djerejian, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Eastern affairs, will stay on in his position, which includes responsibility for Iraq policy, said the offi-

And they said Dennis Ross, a top State Department aide, will be retained as a senior State Department consultant. Mr. Ross has day-to-day responsibility for overseeing the Middle East peace talks.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials also said Peter Tarnoff, President of the Council of Foreign Relations, would be named under-secretary of state for political affairs and Joan E. Spiro, currently a top official at American Express Company, as under-secretary for economic affairs. Former Colorado Senator Tim

Wirth was to be named to the (Continued on page 5)

League implicitly criticises Kuwait Americans deploy Patriot missiles in emirate CAIRO (Agencies) — In what may be an admonition to Kuwait, Egypt's government-owned Middle East News Agency

the Arab League's -top executive said Tuesday that any new foreign troop deployment along the Iraq-Kuwait border must be sanctioned by the U.N. Security Esmat Abdul Meguid, secret-

ary general of the Cairo-based 21-member Arab League, appeared to be reacting to a reported Kuwaiti government request for British and French forces to be stationed along its border with Iraq.
Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former

Egyptian foreign minister, also said his organisation had offered to mediate Kuwaiti-Iraqi differences and was awaiting replies from the two countries.

(MENA) carried what it described as a "special statement" from Dr. Abdul Meguid. The dispatch of new forces by

the United Nations for service in the buffer zone between Iraq and Kuwait must be done through the resolution to this effect defining the nature of the work of such

He did not mention the Kuwaiti request to Britain and

Kuwaiti newspapers Monday quoted Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah as saying British and French troops would help safeguard the 200-kilometre border in line with defence pacts his country signed with the two Western powers last year. Kuwait has a similar accord with the

In offering the Arab League as mediator between Kuwait and Iraq, Dr. Abdul Meguid said: "Resolving inter-Arab disputes Security: Council," Dr. Abdul
Méguid said. "There should be a best way to avoid escalations that would unduly exacerbate such disputes.

Efforts by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other Arab leaders to end the Kuwait crisis at a summit conference in Cairo on Aug. 10, 1990 failed.

In his statement to the agency, Dr. Abdul Meguid echoed an

(Continued on page 3)

First U.S. troops leave Somalia: more to follow

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The first unit of U.S. Marines left Somalia for home Tuesday after handing over their duties in the famine-stricken southern town of Baidoa to Australian replace-

A group of 237 troops packed their bags, handed over live ammunition rounds, and flew out of Mogadishu airport for March airforce base in southern Califor-

"You did like you always do a first class job," Major General Charles Wilhelm, commander of U.S. forces in Mogadishu, said in a brief farewell address.

The Marines were part of a 24,000-strong U.S. force spearheading Operation Restore Hope, a multinational humanitarian effort to stop the looting of famine relief supplies by gunmen. A U.S. military spokesman

said a second group of 375 Marines. was to leave later Tuesday. Two more flights would leave on Wednesday until the entire 900-strong unit had rebased.

Washington is describing the homecoming as a redeployment and says it does not herald the start of a wind-down of U.S. forces in the broken Horn of Africa country. Military sources say the overall

level of U.S. forces was likely to remain unchanged for some considerable time, but that combat troops would be replaced by logistical support units as Opciation Restore Hope moves into a second phase.

The U.S.-led force, now numbering a total of 36,000 men from 20 countries, has secured Somalia's towns, airports and ports, and escorted food convoys, critical of Israel WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department

U.S. report

Tuesday released a report critical of Israeli practices within the Jewish state as well as the occupied territories. The report, issued annually by the department, also said Serbian forces in Bosnia were conducting

a campaign of calculated cruelty against Muslims that "dwarfs anything seen in Europe since Nazi times. In Israel. a parliamentary democracy with a multi-party

political system and free elections, Arab citizens do not share fully in the rights granted to Jews. the report said. In the "occupied territories," it

said, Israeli security forces killed

(Continued on page 3)

Expulsion and peace talks pose critical challenge to PLO

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Of all the crises faced by the Palestinian leadership since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid in the fall of 1991 the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories last month may prove to be the most critical.

The majority of the PLO leadership, the Damascus-based Palestinian hardliners and the negotiators themselves have linked the issue of the expelled Palestinians to the fate of Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

There has been wide-spread talk of boycotting the next round of talks, but nothing is

seen as certain yet.
Only a small minority of

Palestinian officials, namely the kitchen cabinet led by Yas-ser Arafat adviser Nabil Shaath, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and the now Yentenbased Bassam Abu Sherif, believe that a linkage between the expellees and the peace talks is "not necessary."

While the kitchen cabinet is known among PLO insiders as the "American lobby," it is unlikely that their view will prevail at this juncture of the peace talks, most PLO officials believe.

Palestine Central Council (PCC) member Ibrahim Abu Ayash says that the Palestinians "can't go to the next round if 'absolutely' nothing is done about the expellees. "Some speck of concession

will have to be made either by the Israelis or the United Nations, otherwise the Palestinian delegation will not be able to go," Mr. Abu Ayash said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi and dele-.. gates Ghassan Khatib, Samir Abdullah, Zakaria Agha and Ehas Freij have all said that they would not attend the next round of bilateral talks if the fate of the expelled Palestinians is not satisfactorily addressed.

boycott by the four Arab partiwith U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and return the exiled Palestinians.

PLO officials say that a cipants in the bilateral talks would put more significant pressure on Israel to comply

Without a united Arab stand on this issue, PLO executives say a lone Palestinian boycott is bound to carry "minimum clout and pressure on Israel" to even consider compliance

"We can still decide not to go. But let's just say it will be much more difficult to do this on our own. Should we decide not to go then we will have to be very precise in our calculations," said Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO Information Office in Tunis.

But Syria officially refused to boycott the bilaterals, saying not attending the multilateral

talks is a better option. Syria's outright refusal to consider the PLO's proposition at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo last week was a blow to the PLO.

"The total lack of willingness on the part of Arab parties to the talks to boycott was upsetting although not really surprising," said one PLO official in Amman.

"There are two problems," the PLO official said, "One is that Israel is not budging on the issue of the 415 expelled Palestinians and the other is that without support from the Arab states and a united position on this issue and a back-up action we are almost powerless to do anything except boycott on our own.

In a statement made to Radio Monte Carlo this week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that the peace process would continue to be hampered" by the issue of the expelled Palestinians. The comment sparked hope in

(Continued on page 3)



CONGRATULATIONS ARAB BANK

Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to

his majesty king hussein

on the occasion of the

Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and

success in the years to come.

Top Saddam aide calls on Clinton to leave Iraq alone

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Saddam Hussein's press officer advised U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton Tuesday to focus on America's economic problems and leave Iraq alone.

In an open letter published in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, Abdul Jabbar Muhsen said the American people elected Mr. Clinton to help them solve domestic problems and not pursue his predecessor's "anti-Iraq policies.

"Mr. President, the people did not elect you to (continue) with these policies ... be with change, with a real new world as you promised." Mr. Muhsen urged Mr. Clinton in the letter which he said it did not necessarily represent the policy of his government.

Mr. Muhsen made no mention of Mr. Clinton's remarks to members of Washington's diplomatic corps that "America's resolve during this transition period will

not waver" in dealing with Iraq.
"I support the international community's action designed to bring Iraq to full compliance with all United Nations Security Council resolutions, and I ask each of you in the diplomatic corps to emphasise this point to your governments." Mr. Clinton

But Mr. Muhsen said U.S. policies under President George Bush reminded him of those followed by "Churchill or for that matter by Stalin or Hitler."

Mr. Muhsen said rejection of Mr. Bush's policies would rid America of a great number of problems burdening it. If these problems remain, it would lead

KHARTOUM (AP) - Sudan's

military leader has dismissed a

member of his ruling junta and

withdrawn the powerful post of

interior minister from his deputy

in a major reshuffle, a govern-

The decree issued by

Lieutenant-General Omar Has-

san AL Bashir Monday night

sacked Brigadier Faisal Medani

Mukhtar from his posts as junta

dismissal, which reduces mem-

bership of the ruling junta, called

the Revolution Command Coun-

cil, to nine. The junta seized

power in a military coup June 30,

1989. Of its original 15 members,

three were dismissed earlier, one

died and one was relieved and

appointed head of the transitional

Gen. Bashir relieved Major

General Al Zubair Mohammad

Saleh, his deputy in the junta and

the cabinet, the influential post of

The Interior Ministry was given

There has been speculation for

several months that the junta will

be dissolved to establish Gen.

Bashir as a civilian ruler. But

Gen. Bashir denied this Thurs-

day, and said he planned political

changes related to Sudan's plan

Sudan is Africa's largest coun-

poorest. Its faltering economy is

burdened by the cost of a 10-year-

old civil war in the south and

recurrent bouts of drought and

famine which have killed hun-

dissolved three ministries hand-

ling construction, social welfare

and state affairs coordinate in an

replaced them by a department

for federal government affairs.

Gen. Bashir created a new

ministry for labour and adminis-

trative reform and another for

Gen. Bashir's reshuffle decree

dreds of thousands of people.

to become a federation.

to Brig. Abdul Rahim Moham-mad Hussein, who was secretary

In another unexplained move.

parliament

interior minister.

general of the junta.

No reason was given for the

member and health minister,

ment decree says.

Bashir dismisses member

of junta, reshuffles cabinet

He added: "A country of the size of your country, when falling, will not stop on the slope but descend to the bottom.

He said there was nothing urgent that required Mr. Bush to use force against Iraq before Mr. Clinton took over.

"Iraq is not an enemy to America and does not want to be. It is an enemy of colonial and barbaric practised against it whether by Americans or

But he said that while Iraq wanted to avoid war it would resist to the hilt if Mr. Clinton decided to adopt the same "hos-

tile attitudes. "Let me offer (Clinton) a free advice: Hostility towards Iraq ...will deny you the realities on which the legitimate interests of your country stand," he said.
Iraq's U.N. ambassador said

Monday he expects more U.S. and allied attacks on his country but hopes the bombing will stop once Mr. Clinton takes office. Mr. Clinton, who becomes president Wednesday, cannot

count on undivided support from U.N. members for bombing Iraq. Russia has expressed misgivings about the raids and told Washington that it should not to act without the 15-member coun-

cil's approval. At Moscow's request, the Security Council scheduled private consultations Tuesday to discuss the dispute.
U.S. aircraft, at times joined by British and French planes, and U.S. cruise missiles have blasted Iraq three times in six days. Sun-

day's attack demolished a sub-

urban Baghdad manufacturing

 $\sqrt{2}\sqrt{}$

different portfolios.

Omar Hassan Al Bashir

economic planning and invest-

The reshuffle also included

Brig. Salah Karar, minister of

transport and communication.

was made minister of energy and

mining. Osman Abdul Gadir,

minister of works, was renamed

minister of transport, com-

Lieutenant-Colonel Galwak

Deng, ex-minister of state affairs

coordination, became minister of

Two newcomers in the shakeup

were well-respected Sudanese

lawyer, Abdul Aziz Sakudou.

who was appointed to the Justice

Ministry and Ali Al Haj, who

became minister of economic

Mr. Haj was the government

The new department of admi-

nistrative reform was added to

the ministry of labour headed by

Major General Dominic Kas-

siano, the only southerner in the

The changes do not appear to

mal any shift in Islamisation

The SPLA rebels in the south

are fighting what they perceive as

a threat to Christians and anim-

spokesman in peace talks with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation

planning and investment.

Army (SPLA).

ruling council.

munication and tourist

health.

reassigning retained ministers to

site that U.N. inspectors claim was used in Baghdad's illegal nuclear weapons programme. "We are expecting the worst,"

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, told reporters. He said Baghdad hopes to defuse the crisis after Mr. Clinton is

sworn in Wednesday. "It's only a question of 36 hours now," said Mr. Hamdoun, the highest-ranking Iraqi official in the United States.

Washington is clashing with Iraq over Iraqi flights into "no-fly" zones imposed by the allies in the north and south

"I think that Iraq will continue to see the 'no-fly' zones as the greatest irritant," Mr. Hamdoun

Baghdad has also balked at letting U.N. inspectors — from the special commission dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass des-

truction — fly into Iraq at will.
Iraq first proposed that the inspectors fly in from Jordan on Iraqi Airline flights. It then said they could come in from Bahrain on their own planes, but the allies must suspend enforcing the southern "no-fly" zone for duration of the flight.

The special commission rejected both Iraqi proposals.

Mr. Hamdoun said Baghdad cannot allow the special commission to fly its own planes into Iraq

while the air war is on. "We cannot hold our land-toair fire if there are active hostilities," he said.

No meetings are scheduled with the commission to try to resolve the impasse, and Bagh-

UNHCR seeks Saudi help

RIYADH (AP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, said Monday that she hoped her first visit to Saudi Arabia would result in a greater cooperative effort between her agency and the Saudi government.

At a news conference at the Riyadh conference palace, Mrs. Ogata praised the Saudis for their generosity towards refugees but noted that her office was not aware of many Saudi activities in duplication of both effort and resources.

The office of the UNHCR is responsible for 18 million refugees around the world. Last year, her agency's budget was about \$1 billion, all in the form of voluntary contributions. The Saudi government gave only \$10,000 to UNHCR last year, and one goal of her visit is to increase that amount.

DUBAI (R) - Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally, has issued a state-

ment without mentioning Iraq calling for full implementation of

all U.N. Security Council resolu-

Apart from Kuwait, no Gulf

Arab country has so far reacted publicly to the U.S.-led allied air

and missile strikes on Iraq in the

past week that have triggered

wide disquiet elsewhere in the

The Saudi statement, issued

late Monday after a cabinet meet-

ing headed by King Fahd, said

the Saudi government stressed

"the need to implement all Secur-

ity Council resolutions in general

thether on the situation in the

Gulf, the Palestinian cause and

the issue of evictees as well as the

cause of people in Bosnia-

The official Saudi Press Agen-

ister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as

cy (SPA) quoted Information

Arab World.

Herzegovina



Tajik refugees face bitter winter in northern Afghanistan

By Kathy Gannon The Associated Press

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan - In hundreds of flapping blue tents, thousands of barefoot refugee children huddled together for shelter from a bitter wind howling across the desolate plains of northern Afghanistan.

In the first week of January, sub-zero temperatures and an outbreak of measles killed 25 people in the frigid no-man's land south of the wild Amu Darya River that separates Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The dead, most of them children or elderly, were among nearly 60,000 Tajiks who fled their former Soviet republic last month to escape a civil war between the communist old guard.

and Islamic fundamentalists. Afghanistan, where they seek haven, is recovering from a civil war of its own that lasted 14 years and created more than five mil-

lion refugees.
U.N. officials trying to cope with the sudden influx of Tajiks said hundreds died trying to cross the Amu Darya. The swift cur-rent swept away small children clinging to their mothers' backs. "One woman lost two children

like that, and then a third child died in the camp," said Terry Pitzner, who works for the U.N. refugee agency in the camp at Sakhi, 25 kilometres from Mazare-Sharif.

Refugees said soldiers fired at them as they fled, slipping through coils of barbed wire and across a huge marsh.

"They shot at our backs. People just fell around me," said Mailon Bibi, who left her village 30 kilometres from the border with her eight children.

saying the cabinet "discussed the

military and security develop-

ments in the region and debated

the reasons and motives that led

to the tensions in the area in the

Monday urged the international

community not to use double

standards in applying Security

Council resolutions in order not

to "cause a loss of confidence and

trigger negative reactions in the

Other Arabs and Muslims have

accused the West of reacting

sharply against Iraqi infringements

of council resolutions while

shying away from action in de-

fence of Palestinians expelled by

Israel and Bosnian Muslims

Syria criticises raids

Syrian Foreign Minister

under attack by Serbs.

Arab and Islamic worlds."

The Cairo-based Arab League

last few days."

They crossed the river in rickety boats or on flimsy rafts or tractor tires lashed together, the refugees said.

In a desperate attempt to escape the pitiless wind, some refugees have dug trenches and covered them with tent-canvas roofs held down with logs. Near several bright-red railway

containers filled with food for the Tajiks, a woman sat in a freshly dug hole, clutching the two-weekold baby she had refused to

"I want her to die," the mother said. "I want to die. I can't live Her husband was in a hospital

at Mazar-e-Sharif with gunshot wounds. Eve Marie Westphal of the French group doctors Without

Borders, the only doctor in the camp, said she was treating about 300 people a day, most of them for skin infections, respiratory ailments or diarrhoea. While U.N. teams drill wells,

water is coming by truck from Mazar-e-Sharif, said Hugh Hudson of the relief agency. There are no trees on the plain, so railroad ties are brought in to Most refugees questioned said

they left their homes more than made helicopters to ferry Tajik beside the river until, in mid-December, Tajik government soldiers forced them across to Afghanistan. "Still the bodies of the dead

children are there on the other side of the river," said Visullah Adullah. She said soldiers had and if he doesn't want to pray or have any religion, he should be attacked children with knives. "They just grabbed them and

latest allied raids on Iraq Mon-

stabbed them." she said. "We don't know who they were." "We just want peace."

Saudis urge implementation of all U.N. resolutions Farouk Al Sharaa criticised the

> day, saying they threatened to complicate the Middle East con-Mr. Sharaa, visiting Rome, said he hoped U.S. Presidentelect Bill Clinton would "see things in a better way" after he succeeded George Bush Wednes-

day.
"We are deeply concerned about recent air strikes against Iraq because this military action, if it continues, will complicate things rather than solve them," he said after talks with Italian Foreign

Minister Emilio Colombo. "We hope the next (U.S.) administration will see things in a different way, in a better way for achieving a general peace in the

(Middle East) region. Mr. Sharaa said Damascus disagreed with the U.S.-led raids on its regional rival even though it

opposed Iraqi policies and sup-

ported Kuwait in the face of Iraqi provocations.

Tajikistan's government claims

most refugees support its Islamic fundamentalist foes and are

armed by fundamentalist in

Afghanistan, particularly Gul-buddin Hekmatyar, one of sever-

General Rashid Dostuam.

another leader, and his national

movement of the north controls

Balkh and Samangan provinces,

where most of the refugees are

He denied sending weapons, but accused Mr. Hekmatyar of sup-plying Tajikistan's Muslim mili-

tants from his bases in northeast-

"At some points, he is probably arming the Tajiks," Gen.

Dostuam said. The general

claimed the flow was dwindling

because, he said, three senior

Hekmatyar commanders who

were among the main gun-runners had defected to him.

As for his own area, "noone is

llowed to take arms to the bor-

der," Gen. Dostuam told repor-

ters at his fortress outside Mazar-

e-Sharif. He is an ethnic Uzbek

and former communist who

joined the Muslim insurgents in ousting President Najibullah last

He used his fleet of Russian-

and Tashqurghan, another U.N.-

Khairullah Muzaffar, one of

run camp 40 kilometres away.

the refugees, said of the future: "We want Tajikistan to be democratic. Whoever is a Muslim

can pray as he wants, whoever is

a Christian can pray as he wants

is from the border to Sakhi

ern Badakhshan province.

al guerrilla leaders.

Syria was among Arab states that sided with the United States in the 1991 Gulf war and contributed troops to the international coalition which fought Iraq. Mr. Sharaa said the latest attacks showed the West had a double standard when it came to

the Middle East. For example, he said, Israel had not been punished for ignoring U.N. resolutions on the occupied territories or for its expul-

sion last of more than 400 Palestinians to the Lebanese border. There is wide feeling of bitterness and frustration in the Arab World," he said. "It is as though U.N. Security Council resolutions are only applied when they

are directed against the Arabs.
"We hope the Clinton administration will keep its word on the implementation of all U.N. re-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Cuba condemns U.S. attack on Iraq

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba Monday condemned the U.S. air raids on Iraq, saying they were "a threat to peace and international security." Raul Barzaga, head of the Foreign Ministry's department for North Africa and The Middle East, told a news conference Cuba would back any initiative to block a worsening of the conflict, according to the official Prensa Latina news agency. "Cuba rejects and condemns this new, aggressive action by the United States which does not permit the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis and illustrates the U.S. will to proclaim itself international policeman." he said. Echoing a longstanding Cuban complaint, he accused the United States of manipulating United Nations decisions in violation of "the basic principles of international law." Cuba has long argued that the Security Council should be democratised to reduce the influence of the five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China. Mr. Barzaga said the U.S. attacks on Iraq were outside any mandate from the U.N. Security Council or the General Assembly. Cuba criticised Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but has remained relatively friendly towards Iraq in its confrontation with the United States. Cuban doctors remained in Iraq during most of the Guif war and the country retains its embassy there, although it currently has no ambassa-

Pakistan police arrest anti-U.S. protesters

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani police Monday arrested a dozen demonstrators protesting against allied attacks on Iraq, eyewitnesses said. The protesters marched carrying portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and chanting anti-U.S. slogans. The police said the demonstrators were arrested for violating a government ban in Karachi on the assembly of five or more. people at a public place.

8 killed in train crash east of Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Eight people were killed and 16 injured when a passenger train collided with a locomotive east of Tehran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the accident occurred Monday near Semnan, which is 1975 kilometres east of the Iranian capital. IRNA quoted Hamid Seddiq-Pour, a spokesman for the state railways, as saying a switchman had mistakenly given the locomotive permission to proceed. It apparently was being tested. Six of the dead were members of the passenger train's crew, including the two drivers, the agency said.

Belgian troops in Somalia seize weapons

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian paratroopers seized 50 rifles and machineguns and hundreds of kilogrammes of other weapons and equipment in raids on houses and businesses in Somalia Monday, the Belgian news agency Belga said. About 150 Belgian troops were involved in the raids in Kismayu, southeast Somalia, where they are based as part of the U.S.-led Operation Restore Hope. American troops Sunday stumbled across an arsenal of rockets, shells and anti-tank mines about 15 kilometres from the Somali capital Mogadishu. The Belgian defence ministry could not immediately confirm the Belga report which said the weapons seized in Kismayu included anti-tank shells, rockets and ammuni-

Saudi multimillionaire dies

JEDDAH (AP) - Abdul Latif Jameel, a tycoon in Saudi Arabia who was sole agent for Toyota in the kingdom, died Monday in Mecca at the age of 84, his sons announced. Mr. Jameel started his career as a government employee during the reign of the late King Abdul Aziz with a monthly salary of 60 riyals, or \$16 at today's rates. He soon left the job to go into a business that later mushroomed into a group of companies with annual sales of around 10 billion riyals (\$3.75 billion). His firm includes agents and dealers of Toyota Motor Co., MAN trucks and agricultural machinery and Toshibia in addition to owning ships and shipping agent enterprises.

Israeli court overturns 1984 censorship conviction

TEL AVIV (AP) — A court Shin Bet resigned.

Monday overturned the convic
Monday's ruling tion of three newspapermen for violating military censorship by revealing an investigation into the deaths of two Palestinians captured after hijacking a bus.

The Tel Aviv district court rejected the censor's argument that their report jeopardised state

At issue was the daily Hadashot's report on the government's appointment of a secret committee to investigate how the Palestinians died, given that newspaper photographs showed Israeli troops stormed the hijack-

ed bas. The 1984 incident prompted the censor to close Hadashot for three days - one of the harshest punishments it has imposed and to take Hadashot to court. In 1989 a Tel Aviv magistrate fined three editors a total of \$1,000.

By then, the inquiry had con-vulsed the Shin Bet, the domestic secret service, finding that it was involved in beating the two Palestinians to death and covering up the affair. The head of the

Monday's ruling said editors Yossi Klein, and Rino Zror and. Danny Dor, could not be legally faulted because the censor's list. of sensitive topics had never been ... published as laws.

Peralia

It also dismissed the censor's argument that publication could have provoked Arabs holding Israeli prisoners to harm them in revenge for the killing of the two.

It said any potential damage had already been done by publication of the affair abroad, and that disclosure of the state's investigation might have benefited

Israeli prisoners. Military sources said the censor had not yet studied the ruling and had not yet decided whether totake further steps. It could appeal to the supreme court.

Legal commentator Moshe Negbi lauded the court decision, saying that if it motivated the censors to enact their list of sensitive topics as law, "the public can", decide if one issue or another is justifiably under military cen-

JORDAN TELEVISION

.... News in French . News iff Arabi James Randy News in English ... Echoes in the Darkness

PRAYER TIMES

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellich, Tel. S10740 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasanta Church T.:: 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 630R51. Tel. 62R543. 771331. 775261. St. Ephralm Church Tci. 771751.

Evangelicai Lutheran Church Tcl; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. #23/24, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of It will be fair and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Agaha, winds will be northwesterly fresh and

Min /Max. 10mp. Aqaba 5 /18 Deserts -3 / 13

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

652693 Issam Al Asmar Jarosi Al Jarbari Mohammad Al Ghoul 79073 First pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy
Al Asema pharmacy
Nairoukh pharmacy
Al Salam pharmacy
Yacoub pharmacy 77K336 636730 437460 623672

ZAROA:

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111. 637777
Fire Brigade N91228
Blood Bank
Highway Police
Traffic Police xvh390
Public Security Department
Until Complete Answer
Hotel Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
-

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

HOSPITALS

MOSELLAND
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhaireen 777 [01/3
Al-Bashir . J. Ashralich 775111/26
Army, Marka
Oueen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amai Hospital 674155
ZAROA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeiseni Hospital
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Marka
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ton Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Iba Al Nafees Hospital ... (02)275555 (02)272275 Princess Hava Hospital

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53201-5, where it

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)	Fligh
(Terminal 1)	
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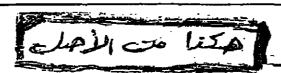
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MARKET PRICES

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Apple	. /////
Banana	/W/ / //
Batana (Mukamatar)	040 / 04
Beans	630 7 4
Cabbage	. IBU / 17
Carrot	. 24U 1
Cauliflower	. XW 2
Cucumbers (large)	200 / 13
Femines (Single)	3/0/3
Eggplant	300 / 1/
Gartie Grapefruit	100/3
Lomon	220
Marrow (large)	360 / 2
Marrow (amail)	<i>271 3</i>
Onion (dry)	210 / 1
Onion (green)	2007 7
Orange	. 370/1
Pepper (hot)	280 / 26
Pepper (hot)	240 / 11
Potato	300 2
Potato	. 220/ 10
Spinach	. 240/ Li
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rince Hassan emphasises eed for specific criteria for umanitarian intervention

ghness Crown Prince Hassan s called for the adoption of ecific criteria for "humanita-In intervention" which the Und Nations normally entrusts to particular country or a group of

Addressing a seminar on hu-an rights held here last week, e Crown Prince said there was ngent need for strict commitent to accurately defining such ses that justify humanitarian tervention in order to safeguard isic humanitarian interests: witha just and non-political

The seminar, organised at the

TLANTA (Petra) — His Royal behest of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was attended by world leaders concerned about human rights. The Atlanta meeting was one of several meetings in preparation for an international conference on human rights to be held in June in Vienna.

Prior to the seminar, the Crown Prince met Mr. Carter and discussed the general situation in the Middle East and world

Prince Hassan, who is now in Germany, also met with members of the Board of Directors of the New York Times to exchange views on current world affairs and to outline Jordan's democratic

3rotherhood and Hamas condemn raids on Iraq

mdermine their scientific

In a statement issued Tuesday, he bloc said the aggression is a tal disregard for the Arab and fuslim nation, and therefore rould be dealt with properly and

The statement said the aggreson would not have taken place ad it not been for total Arab

The bloc called on Arabs and Muslims to unite in the face of danger, and stand up in defence of their sister Arab country, Iraq.

In a related development, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Tuesday condemned the American-British-French "crimes" against Iraq and called for an immediate end to them. They also called on . U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to prove his independence and objectivity and to apply the same standards to all issues.

Hamas also called on the Arab and Muslim nations to rally and extend support to their brothers who are being "persecuted and oppressed by the forces of evil and



injured in the head in Beit Sahur, West Bank

'No let-up in Israeli repression' - report

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities last month escalated 'repressive" measures against the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip following the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from their homes to occupied Lebanese territory, according to a report by the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Fore-

ign Ministry in Amman. The expulsion triggered a new wave of resistance activity in the occupied territories, prompting Israel to step up measures against the Palestinians including extended curfews, night searches of homes, detentions without trial and confiscation of property, the

> Israeli forces focused on mosques in the Gaza Strip where they have been conducting search campaigns, attacking civilians, destroying furniture and clashing with youths in the streets, the

statement said. It said in the past month, the Israeli forces detained 2,200 Palestinians on various charges related to resistance activities, demonstrations, stonethrowing incidents. The statement said by the end

of 1992 Israeli authorities had confiscated 3,077,364 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the past month, Israel issued

198 administrative detention orders in the West Bank and Gaza, demolished 16 homes and killed 24 vouths in clashes with demonstrators, the statement

The search and detention actions, the statement said, were upon direct orders from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin following the upsurge of resistance activity inside the occupied territories since the expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Referring to the situation in Israeli jails, the statement said, conditions there were deteriorating: Detainess have been denied proper food, warmth and clong, and many have been kept in isolation.

The statement also said last month Israel imposed extended curfews on Palestinian refugee camps and towns and banned travel to and from certain areas which they consider military

The statement said measures were being taken against educa-tional institutions such as Bethlehem University which is continually besieged by troops.

The statement said, the occupied territories have been "invaded by thousands of Israeli troops" in an effort to stem the intifada which heightened following the expulsion orders.

'Enemies challenge **Arab and Muslim** nations' — minister

Jordanians celebrate Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of women and children," Sheikh Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzed- Tamimi said. dia Al Khatib Al Tamimi Tuesday launched a vehement attack Majesty King Hussein for "his on what he referred to as the relentless efforts to support the him nations for their atrocities and to safeguard the Holy Sites in against Muslims in Palestine, Jerusalem. Iraq, Bosnia Herzegovina, India and Somalia."

in these regions and elsewhere of attacks on Muslims around the around the world, but the na- world. tion's confidence in God and its faith is becoming stronger, lend- a liberation of the Al Aqsa Mosing us strength in the face of que and the other Holy Sites. adversity," said Sheikh Tamimi in an address at a religious ceremony at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, on the eve of the Al

mies claim to be defenders of received congratulatory cables human dignity, but their actions from senior government officials and policies are nothing but a who wished the King continuing desecration and debasing of the good health and wished the Arab

dignity of man." ar "We all see that their actions co corruption, injustice, the demoli-

The exhibition is to be inaugu-

rated in London by the Prince of

Wales and is to tour major British

cities, in a show of recognition of

the works of 30 internationa

architects. The exhibition will in-

clude names such as Leon Krier

Aldo Rossi, Hans Hollein,

Alvaro Siza and Professor Bohm.

stems in the sole representation

of the Arab Islamic world

through Mr. Badran, in recogni-

tion of his work in the architectu-

ral world which is specifically

related to the heritage and Isla-

Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

official communique he issued

Monday expressing regret at

U.S.-led military attacks on Iraq

since last Wednesday and reject-ing the use of force to resolve

The Kuwaiti army said Tues-day U.S. Patriot air defence mis-

siles have been installed in

Kuwait and are operational amid

heightened tension in the Gulf.

are now in Kuwait and ready to

be fired at any second to face any

danger or potential threat," the

official Kuwait News Agency

quoted the army as saying. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah

Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah

said Kuwait had asked Washing-

ton for the missiles "because we

have to save our people in

A senior Iranian official Tues-

day condemned Iraq and the United States — and Kuwait — for

raising tensions in the Gulf,

It said Parliamentary Vice-

Speaker Hassan Rohani criticised

Kuwait for inviting U.S. forces to

Mr. Rohani, in a speech to

the sheikhdom to defend it.

Tehran Radio reported.

Kuwait."

"The Patriot missile batteries

international disputes.

mic culture of the region.

The significance of the choice

in U.K.

The minister paid tribute to His enemies of the Arab and Mus-oppressed people of Palestine The ceremony was organised

by the Ministry of Awqaf and "The enemies of the Arab and Islamic Affairs which issued a Muslim nations are confronting statement saying the feast this us with all hatred and repression year coincides with an escalation It called for unity of ranks and

King receives congratulatory

Israa Wal Mi'raj holy feast. On the occasion of the feast of Shekh Tamimi, said "the ene- Al Israa Wal Mi'raj, King Hussein and Muslim nations every suc-

reflect anything but justice and The cables were sent by Prime virtue. They pursue their arro-gance, seeking to subjugate and Speakers of the Upper and Lower humiliate other nations through Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat, pride glory, implanted in our tion of homes and the murder of Mayor of Amman Mohammad Al

Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi Bashir, Chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal

Fathi Abu Taleb, directors of

General Intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defence De-

partments, and Chief Islamic Jus-In their cables, senders said the occasion comes at a time when the whole Arab and Muslim nations are suffering divisions, splits and facing aggressions and "evil plans in Palestine, Iraq, Leba-

on, and Sudan. The cables said Arab and Muslim generations pin great hopes on His Majesty King Hussein, who has always carried the message of reconciliation and accord. and upheld the noble principles which unite rather than divide and transcend the differences which have divided the Arab fold. The cables stressed that the occasion should awaken in leaders and people the meaning of

PLO leaders face critical challenge Architect (Continued from page 1) chosen to some Palestinian quarters that the Arab position may change exhibit work vis-a-vis the threat of a

Mr. Mubarak spoke after a AMMAN (J.T.) - Rasem Badran, a well-known Jordanian architect, has been selected to exhibit works at the international exhibition of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

move is yet to be made.

PLO officials as well as some Arab leaders have publicly suggested that Israel take back the expellees and put them in jail or "arrange" for a final verdict of the Supreme Court which would make the expulsions "unconstitutional" or

Thus far the Israelis have not de a move and the Palest mians are sitting on a tight

exiled men are still in South Lebanon we will be losers. If we don't go, the other Arabs will conclude a separate peace with Israel and we will still be losers because we will get nothing from the Israelis under such circumstances," con-

cluded Mohammad Milhem,

surprise visit to Damascus and the expellee issue was apparently on the agenda. But the visit of Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa to Israel apparently did not bear fruit as far as the expelled Palestinians were concerned.

While Israel has raised the number of expellees it says were sent to South Lebanon by mistake to 16 and has said that it was considering taking back those who were sick, a major

rope.
"If we go to the talks and the

an Amman-based PNC member who was expelled 13 years

Many PLO members believe that if Mr. Arafat sanctions the participation of a Palestinian negotiating team without any satisfactory solution to the expellees crisis he "will lose the faith of his people and he will

"It will be political suicide if he does it," says PNC member

Abu Ayash.
While Palestinians ponder their future moves, PLO officials in Tunis are keeping their options open.

"All doors were still open" to the talks, Mr. Hilal main-

"The PLO will announce no official position until an invitation to the Palestinian delegation is forwarded," he said. There is no reason why we should announce our intentions before the United Natime to brief the U.N. Security Council on the findings of their mission and make recommendati ns for further steps to be taken," Mr. Hilal added in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times. "Furthermore we have not been informed of either the time or the venue of the next bilateral meeting; so we cannot possibly respond."

compared to the 1992 figures. The report demanded the gov-A Senate statement said Tuestion of poverty.

of Parliament has recommended hat the House, which meets aturday, endorse the 1993 Fiscal ludget which was approved by he Lower House of January 6. The Senate, which will meet in

he presence of Prime Minister sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Saturday meeting. Cabinet members, will hear the inancial committee's report insluding comments on the budget sinancial policies implemented in which estimates total revenues at the Kingdom since 1989, the com-

The budget shows that current expenses were covered by local domestic revenues and reflects a 55 per cent decrease in the deficit

Expressing its satisfaction with the government's economic and ID 1.28 billion and expenditures mittee said these measures helped ing to stabilise the Jordanian cur-

The allocations in the budget signed to deal with poverty fall far short of doing so, the report

stitutions dealing with social matters lack trained and skilled manpower to help deal with the ques-

manded the government create what it termed a social security net, worthy of public confidence. The report estimates that

The committee demanded the government embark on social development schemes to help deal with the problem.

The report referred to educational policies and said reform should be introduced to the educational system, giving more attention to vocational training.

With regard to agriculture, the committee said proper measures should be introduced for the comprehensive development of the agricultural sector in Jordan.

UNRWA appeals to donors

operation, said Mr. Adel

Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO). Mr.

He said topics of discussion included Israel's repressive measures, the economic and social conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule, the situation in Arab Jerusalem and Israel's ongoing Judaisa-tion schemes as well as UN-RWA's financial situation.

Israel's continued drive to bring more Jewish settlers into Arab territory.

The week-long meeting re-

ferred the financial situation of the agency to the Arab League for discussion at its next regular session, Mr. Irsheid said.

by Serbian and Bosnian Serbian forces against Bosnian Muslims."

Israeli paper reports land grab plan

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, settlement near Hebron we found she said.

present political climate is un-work," the television said.

movement accused the govern- an obstacle to the peace talks in ment of expanding Jewish settle- Washington and it raises tension ments in the occupied West and violence in the territories." Bank, contradicting Mr. Rabin's Palestinians said Tuesday that pledge to curb them when he four mobile homes were set up at took office in July.

The housing ministry denied town of Ramallah. Settlers said the charges. But Israel Television, reporting on them, showed diers and not part of the West bulldozers clearing land at two_Bank settlement.

West Bank settlements. "For instance at Beit Hagai a tractor reparing ground for 60

"But the mayor thinks to talk new housing units and at today about expropriation in the Naale...three bulldozers were at Peace Now said: "Continua-On Sunday Israel's Peace Now tion of construction at this time is

Ofra settlement near West Bank

MIDDLE east **MEDICAL SCIENCES LABORATORY**

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MMAN (Petra) — The Muslim rotherhood bloc at the Lower louse of Parliament Tuesday ondenined the recent U.S.-led ttacks on Iraq, saying they were esigned to oppress and humili-te the people of Iraq, destroy heir economic resources and

lence and had the U.S. not scrived the green light from ome Arab regimes.

> Senate Financial Committee favours 1993 draft budget MMAN (J.T.) — The Financial at JD 1.328 billion. Committee of the Upper House

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Khairallah named CBJ deputy governor

Passport department to ease procedures

accordance with the Jordanian Constitutions and law. The party

was granted a licence by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sboul

Monday. It is the seventh party to receive legal recognition in the

JMA discusses investments, marketing

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific meeting on ways of launching industrial ventures concluded at the Jordanian Management

Institute Tuesday. The meeting attempted to assist the 24

participants in developing new ideas on offering new products and

services in the local market. The participants were also familia-

rised with ways of converting their ideas into an organised

working plan that conforms to effective marketing policies and a

jound production plan. The meeting discussed the investment

limate in Jordan, small projects, market analysis, assessing lemand in the market and other related issues.

attended Tuesday the opening ceremony of the Royal Cultural

Centre (RCC) Ballet Troupe held at the centre's main theatre.

The opening ceremony for the three-days of performance was also

attended by several senators, officials from the ministry of culture

RBID (Petra) — President of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Kamel Al Ajlouni Tuesday met

with German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners. Dr.

Ajlouni and Mr. Reiners discussed ways of promoting scientific

und academic cooperation between JUST and German universi-

Princess Rahmah attends ballet

and members of diplomatic missions in Amman.

German ambassador visits JUST

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Al Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved

the appointment of Mohammad Waleed Khairal

governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

,,... House committee discusses passport

day the financial committee made a number of remarks which it included in its report for the

rency and controlling inflation.

to address the economic problems and reduce the financial burdens on the Kingdom by help-

ernment take strict measures to deal with chronic issues such as unemployment and poverty. It stated between 40 and 50 per cent of the people in Jordan live under the poverty line or around its

periphery.

It also said that Jordanian in-

Furthermore, the report de-

160,000 people, are currently unemployed: A figure they expect will increase over the years, while

Jordan continues to host guest

AMMAN (J.T.) - A recent meeting of five Arab countries hosting refugees called on-Arab states to honour their commitment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UN-RWA) whose annual budget is

facing a dangerous deficit.

Arab countries were urged to increase their contributions to the agency's budget this year so that it can pursue its health and education services to the refugees in its five fields of Irsheid, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department.

Mr. Irsheid, who attended the meeting in Cairo, said that the conference, sponsored by the Arab League, urged Arab states to implement Arab Summit meeting resolutions which call for providing assistance to the Palestinian people to sup-

port their five-year revolt. The 49th meeting of Arab countries bosting réfugees was attended by delegations from Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. Also in attendance were the Arab League Secretariat and the Arab League Educational,

Irsheid said.

Among the most important topics, Mr. Irsheid said,

He said the meeting recommended that the Arab states implement an Arab League decision taken last September on the creation of a special fund for Jerusalem to provide assistance to the Palestinians

Jordanian and Moroccan officials Tuesday open talks on trade relations (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Freedoms and Citizen's Rights Committee of the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of deputy Ibrahim Khreisat. The committee discussed issues related to temporary and permanent Jordanian passports and the prospect of allowing Jordanians who lost their passports abroad to return home. The committee also discussed the issue of reinstating those who lost their jobs for political reasons. In another development, the Lower House's Judiciary Committee is scheduled to meet Saturday morning to resume its discussion of the amended Youth Welfare Law.

AMMAN (Petra) - Director General of the Passports and General Registration Department Nassouh Muhyeddin Tuesday issued instructions to all of the department's personnel to facilitate procedures facing citizens applying for new passports. Mr. Muhyeddin urged the department employees to finish all citizen's applications within less than a day, provided applicants have all pertinent records enclosed with the application forms. dan's trade exchanges with other **Baath Party thanks government** individual Arab states were on average AMMAN (Petra) — Official spokesman of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialists Party Ahmad Al Najdawi Tuesday paid higher than the level of trade

tribute to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and government states themselves. officials who helped to remove obstacles which stood in the way of legalising the party. Mr. Najdawi said the party will always fight for its principles which call for Arab unity and freedom in

mic cooperation

In the past year, Mr. Awad said, Jordan and Morocco exal agreement.
Mr. Awad expressed confi-

through the help of the private Amman.

American Centre.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and and alleviating customs difficul-Morocco opened talks here Tuesday designed to promote trade of cooperation.

who arrived in Amman Monday evening, are expected to hold other meetings with government

Following the opening talks, the two sides referred the task of details in plans to implement last year's agreement to experts from Jordan and Morocco. They will discuss various aspects of plans to stimulate trade, tourism and technical cooperation, as well as cus-

and Casablanca in the past year. Amman 80 Jordanian firms sold JD 1.2 million worth of national

dence that the current meetings sited the Free Zonez Corporation will produce the framework for (FZC) and discussed activities plans to stimulate trade and eco-nomic cooperation, particularly the Sahab Industrial City near

sectors in both countries. Mr. Awad told the Jordan The head of the Moroccan Times the Jordanian-Moroccan team, Rashad Abu Hilal, said the talks will continue through meeting aims at further develop- Wednesday and the two sides will ing economic and trade relations sign an agreement Thursday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM ☆ Video film entitled "The Woman He Loved" at the British Council — 7 p.m.



Jordan, Morocco seek to implement trade pact

and economic links between the two countries and to pave the way for the implementation of a trade agreement signed last year. Heading the Jordanian team to officials. the talks, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad said Jor-

exchanges between the Arab Mr. Awad said the two countries ought to increase the volume of trade and bolster their econo-

changed national goods valued about \$5 million; but this is still far below the target of the bilaterfair.

Mr. Abu Hilal and his team

toms barriers. Jordan and Morocco have organised trade fairs in Amman According to ministry officials in

The Moroccan team earlier vi-

Mr. Awad told the Jordan

* Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the

parliament, condemned "the presence of foreign forces, especially Americans in the strategic "Persian" Gulf region and their interference in regional affairs.

U.S. report

(Continued from page 1) 158 Palestinians in 1992 and at least 45 of them were killed by undercover units disguised as Palestinians. According to eyewitness accounts, approximately two-third were unarmed.

The report said civilians are the

primary targets of military action

in Bosnia, making a mockery of

the Convention. All sides in the former Yugoslav republic are guilty of atrocities, but "the atrocities of the Croats and Bosnian Muslims pale in comparison to the sheer scale and calculated cruelty of the killings and other abuses committed

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Hope better than despair

JORDAN'S REACTION to the renewed attacks against Iraq by the U.S. and its allies has predictably ranged from words of "anger and sadness" by His Majesty the King to outright condemnation by Parliament and the press. This reaction is understandable, in fact, since the strikes have presented Jordan with a political dilemma that is not much different from the one faced by the other Arab countries in the region. While the attacks served the purposes of presidents George Bush and Saddam Hussein, the military escalation and the rising tension neither helped the cause of Arab-Israeli peace nor contributed to efforts aimed at Arab reconciliation. Furthermore, the role that Jordan has adopted for itself in advocating human rights and democracy for the peoples of the region was again being eroded and sidelined by the new acts of war close

His Majesty made it a point to express support for the "Iraqi people and territorial integrity" of their country, but he rightly withheld from apportioning blame for starting the flare-up on any one single party.

The Iraqi leadership, with whom we have an uneasy relationship, cannot be totally responsible for the tension. While, on the other hand, Western double standards in dealing with the various issues of the world, particularly the expulsion of Palestinians and the situation in Bosnia, cannot be ignored or dismissed lightly either.

But the timing of the attacks could not have been worse for us. They have come at a time when have been in the middle of efforts to renair relations with the U.S. and its Arab allies as well as reevaluating policy options on Iraq. In the latter case, the strikes make it incumbent on us to stick with the only viable option of preserving Iraq for now even at the expense of lowering expectations for improved relations with Washington, Riyadh and their friends.

Some Jordanians feel that things can only improve with the change of administration in the U.S., since both President Saddam and other governments in the region will have to moderate their behaviour to suit the new thinking in Washington, thus bringing everybody closer to the centrist Jordanian position.

This remains more of a hope than an expectation, given the complex issues that govern inter-Arab. U.S.-Arab and regional relations, it is true. But hope, little as it may be, is better than despair, under this and all other circumstances.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Tuesday bitterly attacked France for falling into the trap set for it by Washington and for joining the British and the Americans in raiding Iraqi cities. We had counted on France and its president to stand fast before the American arrogance and attempts at imposing hegemony over the world, but we were disappointed to see France talling in the trap and joining the enemies of the Arab World, said the paper. Indeed, France is joining to avenge its deteat in Algeria, joining the British, who were kicked out from Aden and other parts of the Arab World, and the Americans who tasted defeat in Beirut, the paper added. It said that it is to be regretted that France is being regarded no more than a pawn on the American chess board, totally and completely falling under Washington's influence and being pushed around by American presidents acting upon their whims. The Western alliance is fighting Iraq out of hatred of Muslims and Arabs and is launching a racist battle in order to subdue the Arab Nation in general and the Iraqis in particular, said the paper. This war is bound to end sooner or later and history will keep records of the courageous stand of the Iraqi people and of the black chapter of the colors have an abidi trok part in aggression against humanity, the paper added.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily said that the deportation of 415 Palestinians is a problem of all Arabs and not the Palestinians' alone. Salch Al Qallah said that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue that concerns all Arab states. Israel's atrocities directed at the Palestinians are indeed aimed at the Arab Nation at large and its desecration of the holy places concerns all Muslims around the World. But the writer criticised the Islamists for holding separate rallies in Jordan to show support for the expelled Palestinians, noting that all national and Islamist groups had agreed in advance to take concerted efforts and to hold open rallies for all popular movements — Islamists or otherwise — in order to manifest solidarity with the evictees. It was hoped that the deportation of the 415 Palestinians would unite the various factions and political groups, but we are surprised to see the Islamists taking a different course and holding their own meetings and rallies, excluding the other factions, said the writer. He said that experience had shown that separate and unorganised political work, on the part of different groups, can yield no good or positive results. No party or group should exploit the expulsion of the Palestinians as a tool for election propaganda campaign and, said the writer, all political groups should realise that the Zionists do not differentiate between one group and another when launching aggression.

Economic Forum

Mysterious drop in external debt

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sponsored economic adjustment programme derives its legitimacy fairly and squarely from its promise to eventually enable Jordan to repay its external debt. It was this debt, and Jordan's inability to pay maturing instalments, that forced us to seek the help of the IMF in 1989 and to accept its mandate. It follows that the success or failure of the programme must be measured by the fulfillment of this mission i.e., repayment of external debt. Because repayment, on a net basis, will start only at the outset of the next century, the final and real grading of the programme will have to await that time.

Accordingly, any retirement of our external debt, through repayment, forgiveness or whatever, should be hailed as a step in the right direction and a legitimate reason for celebration. Given the figures released in the 1993 "budget speech," a very remarkable achievement was made in 1992. The grand total of Jordan's external debt (net outstanding balance) dropped from \$7,346 million at the end of 1991 to \$6,625 million at the end of 1992, that is by \$721 million.

This figure, \$721 million or around JD490 million, has intrigued me because I have not been aware of debt repayments to that tune. The totality of external and internal loans repaid in 1992 amounted to only JD311 million while freshly-acquired loans reached JD359 million, meaning that external indebtedness increased rather than decreased. Payment of interest on external loans during 1992 stood at only \$196 million (= JD132.9 million), meaning that interest payments cannot also explain the statistical drop of \$721 million in our external debt!

Admittedly, some of our external loans were purchased, before maturity, in the secondary markets at substantial discounts. But who, or which party, made the purchases? It was not the Ministry of Finance because such purchases in this case would have figured

in the draft budget document. There are a number of possibilities that may, jointly or individually, explain the mysterious drop in Jordan's external debt in 1992. First, some loans could have been written off. This is a very faint possibility because not a single word has been

circulated in the town or outside regarding such writing-off. Second, part of the loans repaid might relate to financially independent public institutions. But again, the missing item is too big to be absorbed by the debt of these institutions.

A third suspect is a downmarking of our debt as we recomputed the interest on dollar-denominated loans at the substantially lower rates on dollar assets.

Another very important explanation is for the Central Bank of Jordan, not the Ministry of Finance, to have purchased some of Jordan's external loans at hefty discounts, in which case the amortised loans would not appear in the budget. But again, this eventuality will have to be dismissed because no related figures can be traced in the central bank's balance sheets. However, if the central bank did that, it would be lending the Ministry of Finance the equivalent of what it purchased and therefore the internal public debt would have shown an identical rise. That was not the case, because the minister of finance stated explicitly in the budget speech that public debt decreased, rather than increased

in 1992; it dropped to JD923 million, from JD1,052 in 1991. The reason behind the celebrated drop in the book value of our external debt during 1992 may be very simple, but it is not visible in the published official documents and policy announcements. However, what really matters is the drop not the reason; it will, nevertheless, be very assuring to know the reason, if there is one.

Globe more crowded, more troubled but in some ways safer

By Robert Barr The Associated Press

LONDON --- Bill Clinton's world is more crowded, more disorderly and more polluted than the one Ronald Reagan confronted in 1980 when Republicans began a three-term occupation of the White House.

The planet has gained one billion people, an explosion of AIDS, an ozone hole and nearly a score of new countries. It teems with possibilities for distracting Mr. Clinton from the domestic issues at the heart of his long campaign. Announcing his foreign policy

team last month, Mr. Clinton promised "a foreign policy of engagement, one that strengthens democracy, promotes economic reform, opens markets and stands up to aggression and intoler-

But it's no longer a world in which Mr. Clinton is likely to echo John F. Kennedy's inauguration day promise to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe."

The burdens have grown enormously in 12 years. "We added roughly 100 million people a year to the planet, and unfortunately a significant fraction of those — a fifth anyway

- live in a degrading level of poverty," said Allen Hammond, director of resource and environmental information for the World Resources Institute in The new president inherits from President George Bush a

new agreement with Russia to sharply reduce nuclear arsenals, a treaty with Mexico and Canada to establish a free-trade zone and a commitment of troops to help feed the starving in Somalia. He also assumes leadership of

an international coalition facing the endlessly defiant Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and responsibility for a sputtering Arab-Israeli peace process.

The fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina exemplifies the dangers let loose by the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellites.

Jane's Defence Weekly, the respected British journal of military affairs, this month counted 73 flashpoints around the world, including fighting or insurrections from Somalia, Angola and Liberia in Africa to Tajikistan in the former Soviet Union and Peru and Colombia in South America.

The collapse of the Middle East peace process and renewed conflict in the region, the outbreak of civil war in South Africa or spreading unrest in former velopments could deeply entangle the president in foreign affairs, says James Plaskitt of Oxford



Analytica, a private British con-

"Here be rocks, as they used to say on old marine maps," Mr. Plaskitt said.

Warren Christopher, Mr. Clinton's choice for secretary of state, spoke of facing "a world where borders matter less and less, a world that demands we join with other nations to face challenges that range from overpopulation to AIDS, to the very destruction of our planet's life-support

During the campaign, Mr. Clinton promised to stop the forceful repatriation of Haitian refugees; oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state: cut U.S. troop levels in Europe and invest in expanded air and sea lift capacity for the military.

He has already hedged on one promise, giving his support to Mr. Bush's decision last Friday to impose a naval blockade around Haiti to block a possible refugee

In the campaign, Mr. Clinton's

million: 1990, 354.0 ppm.

1992, 997 trillion barrels.

655 million tonnes.

tan. Uzbekistan.

emphasis was heavily on domestic issues, particularly the weakness of the U.S. economy. But even there, foreign policy issues arise.

Mr. Clinton criticised Mr. Bush for being too accommodating to China's repressive, elderly leaders. He will face a decision on whether to pressure China by withdrawing most-favoured-nation trading status - and cut U.S. producers out of the world's

largest market.
Mr. Clinton may well have the opportunity to deal with new leaders in China and in North Korea, whose reported progress towards becoming a nuclear power is a worrying development in

Since winning the election, Mr. Clinton has emphasised foreign relations closest to home. His first meeting with a foreign head of state was with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Texas on Jan. 8, where he reaffirmed his support for the North American Free Trade Agree-

Some figures which show how the world has changed

World population: 1980, 4,478 billion: 1991, 5,423, billion

Reported cases of AIDS (comulative): 1980, 114; 1992, 611,589.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere: 1980, 338.5 parts per

Tropical forest area: 1980, 1.885 billion hectares; 1990, 1.715

Infant mortality: 1975-80, 86 per 1,000; 1985-90, 70 per 1,000.

Wheat production: 1979-81 average, 487 million tonnes; 1990,

Estimated world netrolesm reserves: 1980, 649 trillion barrels:

Value of dollar: Jan. 14, 1981, 203.30 yen; Jan. 14, 1993, 126.65

Extinct nations since 1980: Soviet Union, German Democratic

Republic, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic

of Yemen, Czechosłovakia, Yugoslavia.

New members of the United Nations since 1980: Antigua and

Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina,

Brunei, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Marshall Islands,

Micronesia, Moldova, North Korea, St. Kitts and Nevis, San

Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenis-

since Democrats last occupied the White House.

Three-quarters of Americans live in urban areas, a mere 2.5 per ent of the nation's land mass. Of 118 million in the civilian labour force, only 3 million still work on the farm.

was almost double the 2.2 million deaths. Infant mortality was down from 12.6 per 1,000 births in 1980 to 10 in 1990, but America still trailed many industrial countries. Japan's rate was 5 per 1,000, Sweden's 6 per 1,000.

realities. More than 500,000 babies were born to teen-agers, and more than 1 million births — 64 per cent of black births were to unwed mothers. There are about 1.6 million abortions every year, four for every 10 live

divorces, and reflecting evolving social mores, 2.9 million unmarried couples.

The typical household has 2.63 members, down from 3.33 in 1960. That's partly a result of the 9.7 million households, 28 per cent of the total, with single parents. Helping fill the space were 52 million dogs and 55

cluding room and board - at ir private schools topped \$10,000 in 1990. College can be an expensive gamble when the

plethora of riches, problems

Clinton presidency inherits

WASHINGTON - Bill Clinton says he wants his presidency to 'look like America." But what does America look like these days?
It's a nation of 255 million

people with hundreds of languages, thousands of agendas and millions of problems, a land so diverse it's a wonder anything A full quarter of the populace

By Jim Abrams

The Associated Press

comes from ethnic and racial minorities, and the white majority continues to give ground to Koreans, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Haitians and Guatemalans seeking the American dream.

Adding to urban strains, and

the nation's vitality, are 20 million immigrants, one-fourth of whom arrived after 1985.

The median age of Americans is 33.1, compared to 18.9 in 1850 and 30.2 in 1950. One out of eight Americans is now 65 or older, and the aging of the nation previews more crises in health and

social security programmes.

The American male can now expect to live to age 72, females

The 4.2 million births in 1990 and 24 million joggers.

There were other unenviable

There were 2.4 million mar-riages in 1990, but also 1.2 million

million cats.

Young Americans still see higher education as the key to success, and 21 per cent of those over 25 have completed college. More than 14 million people are studying at 3,500 institutions of higher learning.

But annual tuition — not in-

educated have become a very invitation to Mr. Clinton's Jan. 20 visible part of the nation's 7.3 per presidential inauguration.

cent without jobs.
"It's very bad for young people," said Greg Williams, 26, of Rochester, N.Y., who received a Master's degree from Northwestern University last September and is looking for work in jour-nalism. "A lot of people are working up a lot of debt trying to stay in school and ride this out."

40 per c regularly.
In this per cent

Mr. Williams waited tables, with several other Master's degree holders, to pay off some of the \$20,000 he paid for graduate school, and sent off about 50 resumes. He's got some pros-pects, but "it looks so grim some-

Among Americans seeking the good life are 1.8 million engineers, 575,000 doctors, 4 milhon noncollege teachers, 77,000 pro athletes, 744,000 lawyers, 1.4 million waiters and waitresses, 870,000 police and detectives and 2.1 million janitors and cleaners. Nearly 60 per cent of the 56.9 million women in the labour force are working, and 7.2 million peo-

ple have more than one job. With their earnings, Americans spent \$257 billion in 1990 for recreation, including \$52.5 billion on video, audio and computer equipment, and \$28.3 billion on

toys and sports supplies.
Two-thirds of American homes owned VCRs and 58.9 per cent have cable for their 2.1 televisions. The average household kept the TV on six hours and 56 minutes daily, providing respite for the nation's 27.8 million golfers, 18.4 million tennis players

Americans owned 132 million vehicles, hitting those 38,000 shopping centres around the country on their way to piling up 3.2 trillion kilometres on the road

every year.

Mr. Clinton won't have to worry about putting a chicken in most pots. The average American consumed 24 kilogrammes of chicken in 1990, up from 15 kilogrammes in 1970. Meanwhile, red meat consumption dropped from 60 kilogrammes in 1970 to 50 kilogrammes in 1990.

Americans owe more than \$700

billion in short term consumer installment credit, but even that pales to the \$4 trillion national debt, which works out ot \$16,000 for every man, woman and child. There's another side to this land of excess, where 64 per cent own their own homes but hundreds of thousands spend each night huddled on street corners or

in shelters.
"I tried not to be homeless, it represents being a total failure," said Jack Graham, 42, who spent 18 months on the streets of Chicago after an injury cost him his job as a correctional officer. Mr. Graham is now an advo-

cate for the homeless with an

Americans remain a dev-

out, giving people, with 20 per three-fourths contributing to charity. Church membership holds steady at 65 per cent, with 40 per cent attending services

In this richest of nations, 14.3 per cent of its populace lives below the poverty line. That includes 32.7 per cent of the nation's 31 million blacks and 28.7 per cent of the 22 million Hispa-

One-fifth of all children, more than 14 million, live in poverty. Many will join the 4 million people between the ages of 14 and 24 who are high school dropouts with often dismal job prospects. Chicago's Mr. Graham said he hopes Mr. Clinton will create programmes that help people get real jobs — jobs that enable them to afford housing and escape

poverty. "I'm not looking for miracles," he said. "But we've got to see some real solutions come down the pike." The government administers to the 40 million social security recipients, 26 million receiving food stamps and 4.2 million house-

bolds receiving aid to families with dependent children. No other nation on earth comes close to the \$940 billion the United States is expected to spend this year on health care. That's 14 per cent of the gross national product, \$3,700 for every person in the country. Still,

fewer than half of 2-year-olds in some cities have received immunisations for polio, diphtheria, measles and other diseases. Some 34 million Americans have no health insurance; the cost of providing it is driving many small companies out of business.

lem across America. In 1990, there were 23,000 murders, 103,000 forcible rapes, I million aggravated assaults and nearly a quarter of households were touched by crime. Sherry Price, a consultant for

Crime continues to be a prob-

the New York City Department of Corrections, was raped when ber car broke down eight years ago. "It was something I was totally unprepared for," she said. "I went into shock ...My life fell apart and I lost my job. She's found a mission in help-

ing other victims, but says she's still "always looking over my shoulder." As far as she knows, her assailant was never caught and she says New York has shut down its rape crisis hotline be-cause of a lack of funds.

Americans spend \$40 billion a year on illegal drugs, only slightly less than the federal government's education budget. There are about 200 million firearms in private hands, with half of all households possessing guns.

It's a long list, and already Clinton has trouble keeping his word

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — In the Mr. Bush's policy of forcibly reheat of the presidential cam-

Clinton had a promise for every-He pledged to rescue the "for-gotten middle class." make health care and college available to all, reverse the Bush administration's Haiti policy, chop the deficit in half in four years and cut the White House staff by 25

paign, it often seemed as if Bill

per cent. But now, with his inauguration just five days away, the presidentelect is retreating from some campaign pledges and finding out that others will be difficult to keep

because of budget constraints. The latest shift came on Thursday, when Clinton said he would continue "for the time being"

turning Haitian refugees to their homeland, this despite an adamant campaign declaration that. "this policy must not stand." Mr. Clinton insisted he was not

going back on his word. "I still believe the policy should be changed...but I don't think we can do it on a dime on January the 20th," Mr. Clinton said, hoping to head off a mass migration of Haitians to Florida.

Mr. Clinton and senior aides protest when it is suggested Mr. Clinton is abandoning campaign promises. Most will be kept, they say, and those that are being ditched or refined are under review because of changing economic conditions and a bigger-thanexpected federal deficit.

On Friday, Mr. Clinton's Communications Director George Stephanopoulos acknowledged some "bumps in the road" during the transition and "a lot of uncertainty during the transition phase" that sometimes left Mr. Clinton "caught betwixt and between." But he urged against rushing to judgement on whether Mr. Clinton would keep his word.

"Judge him by his performance — he is not in office yet," Mr. Stephanopoulos said, "He will follow through on his commitments.

Mr. Clinton himself appeared half defensive and half indignant when pressed Thursday to explain his apparent retreat from several major campaign prom-

"I think the American people voted for me because they ... supported the big things that we were running on," Mr. Člinton said. "I think that it would be irresponsible for any president of the United States not to respond to changing circumstances. As he comes under criticism,

Mr. Clinton is in many ways a victim of his campaign insistence on specificity. From his announcement speech to acceptance speech at the Democratic convention, Mr. Clinton insisted on including detailed policy proposals in virtually every major address, leaving a lengthy list of promises that then were compiled in his campaign book, "Putting People First."

Mr. Clinton's political advisers

say the public is far less concerned than the media with reversals or shifts on any specific

"I don't think people are out there with a scorecard having counted up his 102 commitments and scoring him," said Mr. Clinton's polister Stanley Greenberg. Still, Mr. Clinton, the man dubbed "pander bear" by one primary rival, repeatedly has found himself defending policy

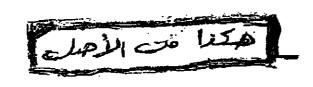
shifts.

"I think I have to revisit it in light of the bigger deficit," Mr. Climon said Wednesday in explaining why his once solid pledge of a middle class tax cut was now a goal. "I have to put everything back on the table because of the size of the deficit."

Other "goals" now are Mr. Clinton's promised 25 per cent White House staff cut and 50 per cent deficit reduction over four

Aides say Mr. Clinton eventually will meet his White House staff cut goal and blame the retreat on the deficit pledge to the Bush administration's recent announcement that the federal debt was much worse than projected just a few months ago.

"Reality sometimes governs rather than politics," said Mr. Greenberg. "And the reality is that over time things can change. You have to think through the budget situation and address that regardless of what you promised



Iraq offers unilateral ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

missile and radar site in northern Iraq after the radar "locked on" the plane in a threatening action, said a Pentagon official.

Three hours later, two F-16s dropped several cluster bombs on an Iraqi anti-aircraft site after being fired on by artillery, the official said.

The RCC said the proposed ceasefire, which could allay one of the sorest parts of the latest confrontations between Iraq and the West, would last as long as the allies do not attack Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Wilfiams said the Bush administration had not received official notification of the Iraqi ceasefire announcement, and warned, more important than any statement is action."

There was no immediate reaction from the Bush White House, which was in its last full day of operation.

The Iraqi military must not only stop firing on U.S., British and French aircraft patrolling the "no-fly" zones in the north and south, it must also take them out of firing status and store them, Mr. Williams said.

"It's a helpful sign if in fact Iraq will stop threatening coalition aircraft," Mr. Williams said. adding, "but the most important thing is what (Iraq) really does."

Baghdad must also agree to the United Nations weapons inspections, Mr. Williams said, citing yet again the two issues that have brought Iraq and the allies to military confrontation in recent

Cable News Network (CNN) reported that Iraq also agreed to allow United Nations planes to fly directly from Bahrain to Baghdad in a new concession aimed at easing tension in the Gulf.

CNN said it had learned from a "senior Iraqi official" that the United Nations was being informed of the decision.

Iraq has been insisting the U.N. flights carrying officials to inspect Baghdad's weapons arsenal should fly via Jordan.

Meanwhile, Russia, taking a harder line than expected, is de-manding that the United States and other allied powers seek explicit approval from the U.N. Security Council before launching further attacks on Iraq.

The 15-member Security Council, at Russia's request, scheduled private consultations Tuesday to discuss the dispute.

The demand, made in a note Monday to U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, reflects the pressure being applied to President Boris Yeltsin by hardliners who accuse him of betraying former allies.

The Soviet Union and later Russia, as a permanent member of the Security Council, has sup-ported resolutions against Iraq and the use of military action to

Although Russia has not provided any military backing, neither has it used its veto power to block the enforcement.

explicit United Nations backing

Labour's foreign affairs spokes-man Jack Cunningham. "I think

we do need to be sure that

decisions to launch military

attacks on Iraq are decisions of the United Nations Security

George Carey, and other Angli-

can leaders Tuesday expressed

dismay over allied raids into Iraq,

saying they threatened world

what they might consider pre-ventative strikes," Archbishop

Carey told a news conference in

He was joined at the press conference by Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning of the Epis-copal Church in the United

States; Irish Archbishop Robert

Eames; Canon Colin Craston,

chairman of the Anglican Con-

sultative Council; Jerusalem

Archbishop Samir Kafity; and

South Africa's Archbishop De-

Archbishop Browning said

American churches had regarded

"The concern must be the con-cern of the well-being of the

people of Iraq. (The strikes) not only bring great harm to the people of Iraq, but to the stability

of the Middle East," he said. Archbishop Kafity of Jeru-

salem urged world leaders to

pressure Israel to take back more

than 400 expelled Palestinians.

"The deportees must be brought back. We hope the

Anglican communion will plead

with those who take decisions,"

The Vatican, lukewarm at best

about the allied strikes in the

Gulf, said it had agreed to an

Iraqi request to ask the United

Nations secretary-general to

promote dialogue between Bagh-

dad and Western powers to try to

Cape Town.

smond Tutu.

ness.

he said.

"I hope they do not go beyond

The archbishop of Canterbury,

"It's time for a pause," said

for the allied action.

frag's ambassador to Russia.

Disquiet spreads among Gulf war allies

(Continued from page 1)

"Anyone with any common sense would be worried by the risks that the civilian population is being made to run.

Such unease posed Bill Clinton with a tricky job in the early days of his presidency of holding the allies together.

Mr. Clinton, who takes over from George Bush Wednesday, has said he fully supports the U.S. president's policy.

In the Hague, Dutch Foreign Minister Pieter Kooijmans backed the Western strikes, but tempered that support by saying the U.N. could lose credibility unless it took a similar stance on the fighting in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia.

Gulf governments have avoided public disagreement with U.S. policy on Iraq. But, aware of the depth of popular feeling against the attacks, they mostly kept quiet.

In Europe, France's government spokesman, asked to explain Paris's silence over the latest raids, hinted at the differences among allies over Sunday's U.S. cruise missile attack on a

factory near Baghdad. Louis Mermaz told France Inter Radio that action against Iraq should be "proportionate." He declined to elaborate, except to say he had expressed himself "clearly, if indirectly."

French left-wing socialist Jean-Pierre Chevenement, who resigned as defence minister to protest against the Gulf war, said the raids were "insane interventionism" taking place under the pre-text of 'military-humanitarianistic imperialism."

British Prime Minister John Major also faces growing political disquiet over the raids. Parliamentarians from the opposition Labour and Liberal Democrat parties were joined by some ruling Conservative politicians in expressing anxieties over whether the allies had a clear strategy to

counter Baghdad. A group of Labour members of parliament tabled a parliamentary motion condemning the bombing of Iraq, noting what it called "double standards whereby Iraq is attacked on the most minimal pretext, while Israel defies United Nations resolutions

with impunity." A senior official said the government had not yet received an expected request from Kuwait for more troops to police its Iraqi border, which has sparked fears of Britain being sucked into another Gulf war, but said it would be weighed carefully.

Although there was general backing for the strikes on Iraq so far, politicians urged Mr. Major

to clarify his policy.

There is overwhelming support in parliament (for the attacks)," said David Howell, Conservative chairman of partiament's Foreign Affairs Commit-

But he said: "People want an explanation of the end-game, what is the strategy, how to put pressure on Saddam from all sides... how to restore Middle East stability generally."

The Times newspaper said in an editorial it was time for a more thought-out approach to Iraq. "Narrowly defined military successess... must not become a substitute for a strategy to bring President Saddam Hussein to heel," it said.

The opposition Labour Party, which has in principle backed the military strikes, called for more ican military operations." Ghafil Jassim Hussein, told reporters Tuesday that his country had asked Russia "to condemn

this treacherous aggression." Foreign ministers of most Gulf Arab countries have told Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev that they support the position Russia ITAR-TASS news agency said.

> way out is by full implementation of the decisions of the U.N. Security Council," said a statement from the Foreign Ministry carried by ITAR-TASS.

Russia, the statement said. proceeds firmly from the principle that the reaction to the actions by Iraq must be adequate and must proceed only from (U.N.) decisions. It seems the necessity has arisen once again to review the situation in the U.N. Security Council."

A spokesman also said the latest raids on Iraq was "not in proportion."
"In this case we might say the

reaction was not in-proportion, chief spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news briefing. U.S. officials said in Washington on Monday that Russia's Ambassador Vladimir Lukin had formally asked for Moscow to be consulted before any further

The commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States Tuesday added his voice to the growing chorus of Russians questioning

the attacks on Iraq.
"It seems to me that both sides are playing some sort of games," General Yevgeny Shaposhnikov said at a news conference. "I cannot fully understand all the mysteries of the players of these newly-demarcated boundary.

Two Russian newspapers criticised Mr. Yeltsin's government Tuesday for its support of the U.S.-led coalition. "Banditry against Iraq — there

is no other way to describe the action — has become possible thanks to Russia's shortsighted. putting it mildly, policy in the U.N.," wrote Rabochaya Tribu-The daily Sovietskaya Rossiya

wrote: "Iraq has been black-mailed by the Americanised 'world community' for two years now. Yeltsin's political regime has joined the effort having once anti-popular nature." The new skirmishes in Iraq

came in the early morning hours after Iraqi missile and radar installations "locked on" to U.S. and British jets and a U.S. fighter yet by a U.N. commission. drew Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire, two senior Pentagon officials said. As well, the aircraft carrier

cial. In addition, the guided missile cruiser USS Belknap with Vice Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, troops in the demilitarised zone. commander of the U.S. Sixth These forces would not be drawn Fleet, aboard, left a Portugal port from any of the coalition partners call to enter the Mediterranean. that conducted the latest air raid

are two Aegis-class cruisers, the USS Leyte Gulf and USS Gettvsburg, both of which are capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles, the official said.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Williams Tuesday denied any cracks in the allied coalition. took in Monday's note, the saying "they remain united" on two critical points: Iraq must "It ought to be clear that the comply with U.N. resolution and Iraq must not interfere with allied flights in the 'no-fly' zone.

Mr. Williams said that Iraqi jets were continuing to fly just across the 36th Parallel that forms the south border of the northern "no-fly" zone in an attempt to lure allied aircraft into air defence "traps."

"This is sticking a toe over the line," he said, indicating that the Iraqi flights were designed only to draw allied planes close enough to surface-to-air missile batteries to try to shoot them down. At the White House, spokes-

man Marlin Fitzwater called Tuesday's skirmishes over northern Iraq "a defensive attack." but he refused to rule out more strikes in the final 24 hours of the Bush administration.

'We continue to watch Irag's behaviour, we certainly would not hesitate to respond if necessary," Mr. Fitzwater said. Meanwhile, the Vatican said

Iragi request to ask the United Nations to press for dialogue and halt military action in Iraq. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Tuesday recommended

Tuesday that it has accepted an

3,645 armed troops and military support personnel to guard the Iraq-Kuwait border in order to prevent further disputes between the two countries over their

In a report to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali said the new complement should replace the 500 unarmed military observers and other military personnel in the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observa-tion Mission (UNIKOM) currently patrolling a demilitarised zone between the two countries.

Senior council diplomats said the 15-member body might approve the contingents later in the week and were to discuss the report in closed-door consultations later Tuesday.

Dr. Ghali also suggested that in future the council might consider again shown its anti-national and preventing violations of the maritime boundary between the two countries and add naval forces to patrol the Khawr Abd Allah waterway that leads to the Gulf. This boundary is not demarcated

The United States has said it would send 1,200 troops to Kuwait and diplomats said Kuwait would like Britain and USS John F. Kennedy was moy- France to do the same. There was ing into the Eastern Mediterra- no word as to whether the two nean, said a senior defence offi- European states would do this.

But the envoys said this request was separate from any U.N. Accompanying the Kennedy over Iraq.

Clinton (Continued from page 1)

new position of under-secretary for global affairs, with responsibility for environmental, human rights and refugees issues, the sources said. Mr. Wirth previous-

ly was passed over for interior and energy secretary, two posts for which he lobbied.

Several of the selections, to be formally announced Tuesday. have been reported by the Associated Press previously. Others were reported in Tuesday

editions of the New York Times and confirmed by transition and congressional sources.

Other appointments said to be

mate in the Rhodes scholar prog-

ready included: Time magazine editor Strobe Talbott, a Clinton class-

ramme in the late 1960s, for a new post as special representative to the former Soviet republics.

— Lynn Davis, an arms control expert at the Rand Corporation. for under-secretary of state for international security affairs.



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end the Gulf crisis. The Pope opposed the Guif AMIN KAWAR&SONS war two years ago because he felt TEL 604676 604696 the world could have taken more diplomatic steps to avert it.

Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican, Wissam Shawkat Al Zahawi, Tuesday conferred with Vatican "Foreign Minister" Archbishop Jean-Louie Tauran. A statement

issued afterwards said:
"In particular, he asked that the (Vatican) secretariat of state ask the secretary-general of the United Nations to work towards favouring a dialogue among the interested parties and the cessation of military actions."

It added: "The Holy See accepted the request, convinced that recourse to arms to impose one's will and one's political programmes can only lead to an increase in violence and to consequences that are not always controllable."

Politicians who opposed France's participation in the Gulf war weighed in with new critic-

Communist leader Georges Marchais said attacks against Iraq "served George Bush's vainglory, worked against France's fundamental interests and ignored the spirit and letter of the U.N.

Charter. Extreme right-wing National Front leader Jean-Marie le Pen, whose sympathies for Iraq shocked many of his own backers two years ago, said: "I am shocked that France feels obliged to serve as a moral guarantor for Amer-





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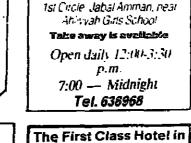
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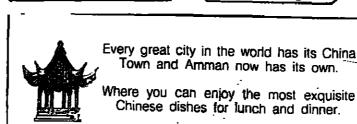
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Bergstrom upsets Lendl in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AP) - First it with impressive straight-set vic-was Boris Becker. Then Ivan tories on a day when 26,214 fans Lendl.

Swede Christian Bergstrom upset No. 8 seed and two-time champion Ivan Lendi 6-4. 6-4. 2-6, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the men's singles at the Australian Open.

On Monday, fellow Swedish giant killer Anders Jarryd upset former champion Becker.

Bergstrom, a steady but unspectacular 25-year-old ranked No. 62, took advantage of Lendl's lack of match practice. Lendi was unable to play warmup matches because of a groin in-

Your mind says go, but your body says no," said Lendl. "I was just not moving fast enough." Lendl suffered a first round loss in a Grand Slam for the first time since Wimbledon in 1981, when he lost to Australian Charlie

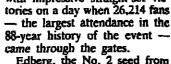
Bergstrom said he had been inspired by Jarryd's win. The two are close friends and sometime practice partners.

"I got so psyched up," Berg-strom said. "He showed that in the first round you can beat these

Bergstrom said he knew Lendl

was not fully fit. "My game plan was to make him a little insecure, hit some drop volleys and wrong-foot him sometimes," Bergstrom said. "Especially in the first two sets I did that pretty well.

Two-time champion Stefan Edberg and sixth-seed Michael Chang began their campaigns



Edberg, the No. 2 seed from Sweden, celebrated his 27th birthday by outgunning Mexican Leonardo Lavalle 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Chang, who arrived down under Sunday, looked very much at home on the synthetic rebound ace courts as he downed English qualifier Chris Bailey 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 just one hour 37 minutes.

Edberg has won the tournament twice on grass at Kooyong but never at the National Tennis Centre, where it moved five years

"It's not going to be easy. There are a lot of good players here," Edberg said. "I always set a goal to win at least one Grand Slam tournament a year and I still feel eager. That's important." In the women's singles, three-

time winner Steffi Graf of Germany overwhelmed error-prone Nathalie Herreman of France 6-2, 6-1 in just 54 minutes. Graf had to put out of last

year's Open with rubella and said she was motivated. "I'm ready for it," she said. "It's difficult to say what shape I'm in, but I felt fairly good

today. No. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina found her route to the second round strewn with more

obstacles Sabatini had to save four set

points in the second set before defeating hard-hitting American teenager Chanda Rubin 6-1, 7-5.

Chang, meanwhile, delighted

From 3-3 in the first set, Chang won 15 of th next 17 games, including a stretch of 11 in a row. Chang mixed up his game superbly, serving strongly and rip-

Chang earned a second round



Sweden's Christian Bergstrom celebrates his victory over former No. 1 Ivan Lendi of the U.S. (AFP photo)

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of riot David Wheaton, who fought Spain, the No. 4 seed who split with her coach Mervyn Rose on the eve of the tournament. downed Noelle Van Lottum of France 6-2, 6-3.

"I'm not too worried. I'm playing well," said Sanchez Vicario. "We..didn't communicate well and Merv wasn't teaching me the things I needed to improve my

Edberg looked relaxed against Lavalle but said he was still adjusting to the conditions after a

week in Australia. "It was nothing magic today," he said. "I just did what I had to

the crowd with a flamboyant shot from behind his back in the first set and quickly established control against Bailey.

ping passing shots against the lanky Bailey. The American No. 15 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria breezed by Nicole Muns-Jagerman of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-0. looked confident coming to the net and volleyed crisply.

meeting with unseeded compat-

LONDON (R) - Manchester United ended Aston Villa's short reign at the top of the English Premier League with a stylish 3-1 away win over Queen's Park Rangers Monday. Goais by Paul Ince and young winger Ryan Giggs in the space of four minutes in the first half plus a third from Andrei Kanchelskis three minutes after the interval were sufficient to put United back in top place on goal difference. Villa briefly held the premier league lead after their comprehensive 5-1 defeat of Middlesborough but United were not to be denied. Both teams have 44 points from 24 matches, with once long-term leaders Norwich two points behind and Blackburn on 41.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Manchester United regain premier League lead

Ewing scores season-high 35 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Patrick Ewing scored a season-high 35 points Monday, including a free throw and baseline jumper in the final minute that gave the New York Knicks a 106-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns. The win was the first in 11 games this season in which the Knicks, the NBA's best defensive team, allowed 100 points. The loss was just the sixth in 18 road games for the Suns, who have the league's best overall record of 25-7 and best road mark. Charles Barkley led Phoenix with 27 points, but he scored only four on 1-for-5 shooting with four fouls in the fourth quarter. He left the court cursing the officials after the game and tripped trying to vault over the scorers' table, knocking out power to the table. In Philadelphia, Jeff Hornacek scored six of his 32 points in overtime as Philadelphia beat Orlando 124-118 despite a season-high 38 points, 16 rebounds and eight blocked shots by Shaquille O'Neal. In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 29 points in just three quarters, and Scottie Pippen had 24 as Chicago nanded Boston its second loss in 10 games 103-93. Chicago, which lost in overtime to Orlando Saturday night despite Jordan's NBA season-high 64 points, hit just 30 per cent of its shots in the third quarter, but led by at least 13 points throughout the period. The Bulls opened their biggest lead, 79-60, on a layup by Jordan with 1:11 left, and it was 79-62 going into the final 12 minutes. In Inglewood, Vernon Maxwell made 6 of 7 shots from 3-point range in the first half, and Hakeem Olajuwon scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as Houston beat Los Angeles 110-90 for its fifth

AC Milan stars dropped from Italian squad

ROME (R) - The wealth of talent at AC Milan and experiments at Juventus have cost players coveted places in the Italian national side to play Mexico in a friendly Wednesday. Italian trainer Arrigo Sacchi said Milan's Roberto Donadoni, Stefano Eranio, Alberigo Evani, Nando de Napoli and Marco Simone had been dropped because their club's policy of rotating players meant they had not had enough recent first-team experience. Sacchi has also left out Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli. Italian captain Franco Baresi is suspended for Italy's next World Cup qualifier against Portugal next month, following a sending-off against Malta before Christmas, so Sacchi has recalled Sampdoria's experienced defender Pietro Vierchowod to replace him for both matches.

American Christiansen beats Karpov

WIJK AAN ZEE. Netherlands (R) - Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov suffered one of the worst defeats in his career Monday when he was beaten in only 12 moves by American Larry Christiansen in a grandmaster tournament. Karpov, playing black, blundered on his 11th move and Christiansen responded by moving his queen to attack two of Karpov's pieces simultaneously.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation. GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you've overextended yourself at this time what you may experience now is called "overload." A baanced (and; humorous) perspective is what will best serve today when frenetic energy may hit the fan all around. Dine early.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The daytime is great for getting whatever objects of charm, beauty or art you desire while tonight finds you need to be careful of unreliable friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can achieve much of the personal happiness and joys you like today during the day but tonight avoid an outside confrontation,

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can find the right answers to add to your growth and development character wise during the day but tonight avoid a sarcastic newcom MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

oughly enjoy your romantic attachment at what you both like to do most, then tonight relax and get rested for the time ahead. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Conversations should be interesting and instructive with associates who

July 21) A wonderful day to thor-

think differently from you but tonight then stick to your own VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Planning to do the things you

ble companions to wherever you have the best times and be happy during the day but tonight work on a private project. SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-

most like until nightfall brings good results for the future while

later steer clear of some boring

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be off and away with compati-

ber 21) Home is where the heart is today so be with and enjoy your own clan at whatever you all like the most while tonight fix up your home by yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into the various activities that bring out your wide awake, alive and alert qualities until evening when you should be careful of accidents in motion. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good day to consider your financial position and how you can improve it by some modemisations while tonight be more

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go after what you want and a positive attitude and you make headway in getting, then tonight rest on your laurels.

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PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Brilliant and unusual inspirations how to gain your aspirations run through your mind so grasp and use them wisely, tonight build up a new vitality.



romantic to sip champagne from your man's ear!

defeated Leonardo Lavale of Mexico 6-4, 6-4 in his first round opening match (AFP photo) Top jockey may opt for retirement

Stefan Edberg holds a birthday cake to celebrate his 27th birthday. He

LONDON (R) - Steve Cauthen, said: "Steve was offered a retainand Epsom Derbys, may opt for retirement at the age of 32.

The American looks unlikely to ride in Britain again following the ending of his retainer with Sheikh Mohammad, the world's most noted owner/breeder.

He may even quit completely, with thoroughbred breeding and broadcasting possible alternative. Cauthen has little if anything

cleft to prove. With the battle against weight an ever-present problem and his wife expecting their first baby in I May, a less demanding schedule could find favour after 15 years in the pressure cooker.

Unthinkable just a couple of seasons ago, Sheikh Mohammad is cutting back by a quarter the number of horses he will race in Britain this year.

Much as they enjoy the British racing scene, the Sheikh and his brothers have become increasingty disenchanted with low prize money and tough value added tax

When it came to renewing Cauthen's retainer, the Sheikh made an offer the jockey could. and did , refuse.

It was believed to be less than the current estimated \$750,000 a

Cauthen is currently in Kentucky but his agent John Hanmer

the only man to win the Kentucky er for the year by Sheikh Mohammad but turned it down.

"As no one else would be able to offer him anything like that retainer, both in terms of cash and horse power, I have my doubts as to whether he will return.

closing any doors, and, although he could retire, that's by no means certain.

Cauthen enjoyed many big race successes for the Sheikh in the 1980s, including European Classic winners Oh So Sharp, Diminuendo, Old Vic and Indian Skimmer.

He partnered 188 winners for his principal retainer during the last two seasons, which included seven group one successes.

But the Epsom Derby, which has always eluded the Sheikh, was not among them.

In addition, although Cauthen did not ride the horse outside Europe, there was huge disappointment last year for the Sheikh on both sides of the Atlantic with Arazi, the one-time wonder colt for whom he paid \$9 million for a half share.

However, the Sheikh, Britain's top owner for five consecutive seasons between 1985 and 1989, still returned to the top of the table here last year, earning £1.9 million (\$2.9 million).

Even \$27.3m cannot heal wounds Reynolds Pettigrew, the 1991 world out-

NEW YORK (AP) - Money not even \$27.3 million owed him by track and field's world governing body — can't heal the wounds inflicted on Butch

But he added: "Steve's not

in the U.S. Olympic trials at new Orleans in June and a couple of

Peanuts

earlier meets in the United States. For that alleged transgression, the international federation added 41/2 months to Reynolds'

end of 1992. U.S. district Judge Joseph Kinneary awarded Reynolds \$6.8 million in compensatory damages

Now, Reynolds says he is "free to run anywhere I choose. Reynolds, his psyche : still battered but his energy renewed, will return to competition in the Mil-lrose Games Feb. 5 at Madison

legal comeback.

door 400-metre champion, and Antonio McKay, a two-time world indoor champion and sixtime Milhrose winner. Reynolds is not concerned ab-

an indoor banked track since 1990. He is concerned about competing again. "I'm nervous," he told the

Metropolitan Track Writers' on a phone hookup from his training oase at Cai Poly-San Luis Obis-

The money he gets from that race and other meets in which he competes this season will help

"The first year I was able to my legal fees," Reynolds said, "but after that I didn't have

the money to pay them.
"I have liquidated all my assets to prove my innocence. I've tried hard to clear my name and my

legal fees have amounted to ab-\$700,000 and could res million before the case is completely settled. The long legal manoueverings

also have been very distracting to Reynolds, who has been training

diligently for many months.
"It's been very hard ... very difficult," he said. "It's been difficult going to the track not know-ing whether you'll be able to compete again ... going to the track when you don't have any

"I wouldn't want to go through again." Although Judge Kinneary's

ruling was in his favour, Reynolds said. "I couldn't really win."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. DAYCE TAGUM **ENFLOY** THE KIND OF MILLIONAIRE THE COUNTERFEITER PLANNED TO BE. SHRAIG Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Print answer here: Jumbles: COCOA BALMY BESTOW MOSAIC Answer: Shooting stars astronomers pay to see-COWBOYS

ACROSS 1 Direct entres 5 Carried away 8 Cable car 13 Relative 15 Cosmetic componer 15 Cosmetic component component 16 Magic charm 17 Lethery 18 NHL team 20 Decorate by inlaying 22 Clothes 23 Chemical prefix 24 Pistol 25 Gandhi's title 25 Sploed sausages 30 Hours borth 23 Pours borth

THE Daily Crossword by Glanton Potgrave

33 Pours forth 35 Warships, collectively 36 Harbor vessel 37 Moslem caliph 28 Hold test 39 Signs one's name to 41 Small seagint 43 Actor Guinne 44 Methods 46 Cloudy 48 Shoot the Yesterday's Puzzle Selved: SPAT MIGHS SASSITAPE OVERT 980E
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South West North East 2 + 3 + Pass Pass Pass Dbl Pass 4 NT Pass Pass Pass I Opening lead: Two of At the recent Spring North

American Championships in Pasa-

dens. Calif.. an underdog team won

the premier event, the Vanderbilt Knockout Team Championship

Originally seeded 14th, the squad led by Andy Goodman of San Franrisco, upset four highly fancied

teams on its way to victory. This deal is from an early round of the event. South's one-club opening was artificial and strong, but the next few rounds of the auction were natural. Four no trump was Key-Card Blackwood, in which the king of trumps counts as a fifth ace, and five hearts showed two "accs" while denying the queen of diamonds. As the cards lie, six clubs would have been unbeatable.

Against six diamonds. West duti fully led a heart, as requested by East's double. With the king of clube onside and guarded only once and a friendly trump position, it might seem that 12 tricks are laydown and would have been with passive

defense. Sitting East was Brian Glubok of New York, who wasted no time in scuttling the contract. After rising with the ace of hearts, Glubok returned a club!

There was no way for declarer to get two discards on the clubs. If declarer continued clubs, West would ruff the third round. If declarer drew trumps first, there would be no entry to dummy to use the good clubs. Down one.

suspension, extending it until the Reynolds said that so far his Money - which has been lack-Meanwhile, Reynolds sued the out the strength of his opposition

THE CORD LED

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Reynolds, he says.

come in a windfall if Reynolds receives his due from the International Amateur Athletic Federation — also won't keep him from

competing in the near future. Reynolds, the world recordholder at 400 metres, was banned from competition for two years by the IAAF after being accused of testing positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolene after a meet at Monte Carlo, Monaco, Aug. 12,

Since then, he has maintained his innocence, and defied his nsion last year by competing

HERE'S AN

nteresting item

FROM NEEDLES,

CALIFORNIA ...

his way past Australian Sandon Stolle 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Wayne Ferreira of South Afri-

ca, seeded 10th and a semifinalist

here last year, beat American Todd Martin 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, while

No. 13 Malivai Washington of the

United States downed compatriot

Francisco Montana 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.

draw was No. 16 Alexander Vol-

kov of Russia, 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 win-

ner over Gabriel Markus of

7, took only 48 minutes to beat fellow American Linda Harvey-

Wild 6-0, 6-1, while No. 5 Mary

Joe Fernandez ousted compatriot

Germany's Anke Huber,

seeded 11th, downed Australian

Nicole Pratt 6-3, 6-1. French baseliner Mary Pierce,

the No. 10 seed, advanced with a

6-2, 6-2 win over Australian Jen-

ny Byrne, while No. 12 Lori

McNeil of the United States prog-

ressed with a 6-2, 6-3 win over

Australian wild card Michelle

Beverly Boes 6-3, 6-1.

Jennifer Capriati, seeded No.

Argentina.

Jaggard-Lai.

Also advancing in the men's

and \$20.5 million in punitive

Square Garden. He has not drawn an easy assignment for his

Also in the field will be Kevin Young, the 1992 Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 400-metre hurdles; Antonio

SOMEONE SNEAKED

INTO THE CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE BUILDING

LAST NIGHT, AND PLUGGED

IN AN EXTENSION CORD

defray the legal fees he has accrued fighting his suspension. until he receives his payments from the IAAF.

بي



Andy Capp

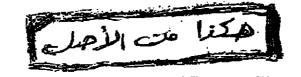






Mutt'n'Jeff





Financial

Cairo Amman Bank

Сагтерсу	New York Close Nate 18/1/93	Tokyo Close Patr 19/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5518	1.5535
Deutsche Mark	1.6135	1.6138
Swiss Franc	. 1-4770	1.4788
French Franc	5.4770	5.4600 **
Japanese Yen	125.45	125.46
Earopean Curreny Unit	1.2158	1.2769 **
USD Ber STG	 	

Eurocurrency Interest Ra	rces		Date:19/1	/93
Chrrency	1 MTR	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.78	3.37	5.75
Sterling Pound	6.75	6.94	6.69	6.50
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.31	7.87	7.33
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.43	5.37	5.18
French Franc	11.00	10.75	10.12	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.68	3.56	3.37
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.87	9.56	8.87

Teclous M	etals			'Date: 19	/1/93
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Ga
Gold	329.05	6.45	Silver	3.69	.080

Сигтевсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.687	0.689	
Sterling Pound	1.0651	1.0704	
Deutsche Mark	0.4252	0.4273	
Swiss Franc	0.4644	0.4667	
French Franc	0.1257	0.1263	
iapanese Yen ^a	0.5470	0.5497	
Dutch Guilder	0.3723	0.3802	
Swedish Kroea	0.0954	0.0959	
Italian Lira*	0.0463	0.0465	
Belgian Franc	0.02065	0.02075	
Per 100			

Other Carrendes		Date: 19/1/93	
Сытемсу	Bi		
Bahraini Dinar	1.793		
Lebanese Lira	0.037	00 0.03875	1
Sandi Riyal	0.182	9 0.1836	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.230	0 2.2870	
Qatari Riyal	0.186	0 0.1872	
Egyptian Pound	0.200	0.2150	
Omani Riyal	1.750	0 1.7720	
UAE Dirham	0.186	0 0.1872	
Greek Drachma*	0.313	0.3237	
Cypriot Pound	1.429	0 1.4490	

ladex	17/1/93 Close	18/1/93	Close
All-Share	184.04	185.21	
Banking Sector	132.35	134.23	
Innurance Sector	200.90	202.85	
Ladustry Sector	253:84	253.93	
Services Sector	251.18	251.81.	_

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

		A 1 1-11
One U.S. dollar	1. <i>2773/</i> 78	Canadian dollar
	1.6148/58	Deutschemarks
	1.8140/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4815/25	Swiss francs
	33.22/26	Belgian francs
·	5.4600/50	French francs
	1483/1488	Italian lire
	125,40/50	Japanese yen
	7.2230/330	Swedish crowns
•	6.8175/275	Norwegian crown
	6.2100/200	Danish crowns
One sterling	1.5445/55	
One ounce of gold	\$328,90/329,40	

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Finland seeks oil exploration partners in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) - Finland is seeking oil exploration and petrochemical joint ventures with Gulf Arab states, which supply it with one-fifth of its oil require-

"We don't have oil in Finland so We have to go abroad. We had decided to try to find our oil share for our national needs from partnerships in this region," Reima Okkola, Gulf representative of Finnish oil firm Neste Corp., told

Mr. Okkola said Finland imports 10 million tonnes (73 million barrels) of oil per year from the North Sea, Soviet Union and on the world market. Between 15 and 20 per cent of its oil imports come from Gulf Arab countries,

Neste Corporation is part of a delegation of Finnish companies accompanying Finland's Trade and Industry Minister Pekka Tuomisto on a tour of Saudi Arabia. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Okkla said they met officials this week from Saudi Arabia Marketing and Refining Co., Saudi Aramco, and Kuwait Oil Co. to discuss joint oil and petrochemical projects.

Neste has joint exploration partnerships with Oman and the UAE emirates of Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, Mr. Okkola said. It also has a 10 per cent share in a fuel additive plant in Saudi Arabia. "We have targeted this area for

oil exploration, and possibly for partnerships in chemicals," Peter Flander, Neste engineering vice president, told a news conference in Abu Dhabi. Mr. Finlander later met officials from Abu Dhabi National

BIS finds developed states reining in external lending

BASLE, Switzerland (R) -Banks in major Western economies kept a tight rein on lending to outside countries in the first half of last year 1992, the Bank Group of 10 largest industrial for International Settlements

(BIS) said Tuesday.
The Basle-based bank for central bankers said in a report that it had detected a trend not to renew maturing loans, and a shift towards less risky short-term, trade-related lending.

Nevertheless, total crossborder claims less repayments facilities. and domestic foreign currency claims on countries outside the

England said Monday.
Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton,

governor of the central bank, said

the requirement for international

banks generally to maintain capit-

al holdings that equal eight per

cent of their outstanding loans

and investment's, "has un-

doubtedly fueled a contraction in

the international banking market,

The reserve-requirement re-

forms were announced by the Bank for International Settle-

ments in 1988, and banks had to

comply with them by the first of

The Bank for International

Settlements, which essentially

central banks and helps set policy, was responding to problems

acts as a bank for the world

this year.

as measured by inter-bank trans-

Bank of England:

world lending

Reserve rules slow

LONDON (AP) - A growth that developed in the mid 1980s,

spurt in international banking when aggressive lending, particuturned into a contraction over the larly on real estate projects, got past three years as banks were many banks in trouble.

required to keep more money on Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said the hand, the head of the Bank of tighter reserve requirements

reporting area rose, unusually for a first half-year, by \$11.7 billion (\$6.3 billion against \$1.7 billion in to \$693.1 billion.

nations plus other major west European economies.

In eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union was the only area to record a rise in its bank debt. But the \$2.4 billion increase mostly reflected the accumulation of interest arrears and the withdrawal of money from existing unused

Lending to members of the Organisation of Petroleum Ex-

Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said the

posed few difficulties for British' banks, because most already

were operating with similar stan-

tries had to make "quite signifi-cant adjustments," Mr. Leigh-

Pemberton said in an address to

the Chartered Institute of Bank-

ers in Glasgow, Scotland. In the United States, many

banks had to cut operating ex-

penses as they limited loans to

their best customers in a widely

Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said in-

their contracts back in the emi-

A finance ministry statement

said the deal was to offset a \$92

million contract won by Hughes

last month to provide Kuwait

with a ground-based early warn-

warned against a sell-out to fore-

ised to be a lengthy and perhaps

creasingly open contest between

Both hope to succeed the coun-

try's 87-year-old head of state,

Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who

has promised to step down at the

Their chosen battle-field, Ivo-

rian and diplomatic sources

said, is the privatisation program-

Mr. Ouattara, an international

banker of repute before he was

appointed premier in 1990, said

privatising state-owned enter-

prises had become a worldwide

the sidelines of this process which

has contributed to the economic

recovery of many nations, not-

ably in Latin America," he told

He said between 1982-88 enter-

the assembly.

'Our country must not stay on

next elections in 1995.

The backcloth to what prom-

assembly, Henri Konan Bedie, budget. Ivorian political sources said.

reinvestment in Kuwait.

publicised credit crunch.

But many banks in other coun-

the previous half-year. The lion's. share \$3.3 billion, went to Kuwait for post-Gulf war reconstruction.

ing claims on Latin America was the largest in eight years. Brazil received (\$2.2 billion of new credits. Argentina \$1.2 billion and Chile \$900 million.

reduction of Latin American deposits in the BIS reporting area largely reflected the return home of flight capital. New lending to non-OPEC

Robin Leigh Pemberton

has now given way to a decline.

In June 1992, for which the most

recent figures are available, the

cross-border lending stood at

\$6.16 trillion after dipping to

something of a slow-down, even

obliged to remvest 30 per cent of

A finance ministry official told

Reuters Kuwait would shortly

sign similar offset deals worth

\$120 million with U.S. firm

Raytheon, manufacturers of Pat-

riot missiles, and \$12 million with

could no longer bail out com-

panies which ought to be profit-

Mr. Quattara has slated 54

vatisation by 1995 with expected

optimistic by Western embas

already concerned at the slow

pace of privatisation. Lack of

domestic investors and growing

political concern about the sale of

strategic economic sectors are

far. The biggest involving the electricity utility EECI. After

years of losses, its distribution

and billing functions were handed

in 1990 to CIE, a subsidiary of the

French construction group

Bouygues which also runs Ivory

Coast's water utility and is a key

partner in plans to exploit

Bouygues was not mentioned

by name but there was no doubt it

offshore natural gas.

Mr. Ouattara has privatised five state-owned companies so

an Am

ing systems firm.

"Recent years... have seen

\$6.22 trillion in 1991.

ternational banking mushroomed in some areas significant re-to \$6.30 trillion in 1990 from \$360 trenchment," Mr. Leigh-

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait signed a Under Kuwait's offset prog-\$27.6 million offset deal with ramme, launched last July by

Hughes Aircraft System Interna- decree from the council of minis-

tional Sunday, the first under a ters, foreign companies winning

programme obliging foreign com-panies to reinvest 30 per cent of million dinars (\$3.3 million) are

the sum.

billion in 1974, but that growth Pemberton said.

Kuwait signs \$27.6m

Privatisation battle

starts in Ivory Coast

ABIDIAN (R) — Ivory Coast Mr. Ouattara said deficient Prime Minister Alassane Ouatmanagement was the main cause

tara began a vigorous defence of of low productivity and profitabil-

his privatisation plans in parlia- ity. The state budget, hit by low

ment Tuesday as the ruling party prices for its cocoa and coffee,

acrimonious debate is the in- companies for full or partial pri-

the prime minister and the presi-dent (speaker) of the national cent of the 1993 investment

blamed.

offset deal with Hughes

A \$4.1 billion rise in outstand-

At the same time, a \$5.8 billion borrowing.

billion from \$13.8 billion in the previous half. South Korea was the destination of \$2.6 billion of new funds. Thailand of \$1.9 billion and Taiwan of \$1.1 billion.

Claims on China, which had risen by \$5.4 billion in the preceding half-year, fell \$1.9 billion in the first half of 1992 as a result of repayment of earlier short-term

Claims on the Philippines fell by \$1.6 billion to \$7.1 billion, mainly owing to a \$1.3 billion debt buy-back agreed in May with creditor banks.

UAE paid for Gulf war effort

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it paid 35 billion dirhams (\$9.5 billion) in costs related to the sevenmonth Gulf crisis which began with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in

In the first official account of the country's Gulf crisis expenditure, the central bank said the UAE spent 20.8 billion dirhams (\$5.6 billion) in 1991, up from 14.2 billion dirhams (\$3.9 billion)

The 1991 figure represented 34 per cent of the UAE's 60.7 billion irhams (\$16.5 billion) general spending that year.

It went to "the war effort, tumanitarian aid, and aid to those countries hit by the Iraqi aggression," the report said. an Arab League report said the Gulf crisis cost Arab economies around \$620 billion, with most of the losses caused by the destruction of economic infrastructure in Iraq and Kuwait.

IBM loses \$5.5b in 4th quarter

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM Tuesday reported a fourth-quarter loss of \$5.46 billion, capping a year in which the tarnished computer industry leader shed more than 40,000 jobs and saw its stock price tumble. The record quarter-ly loss was caused largely by \$7.2 to 7.5 francs (\$1.36), according to accounting billion in pretax charges taken during the quarter to pay for another 25,000 jobn cuts planned for 1993, the latest in a series of restructuring announced in the last year. "Our to increase as much, with the financial results are not acceptable to us or our shareholders." IBM Chairman John Akers said in a statement. "We are taking aggressive actions to improve our competitiveness and profitability

by addressing the accelerating changes that are sweeping our industry, while adjusting for weakened business conditions throughout the world," Mr. Akers said. The loss in the October-December quarter amounted to \$9.57 per share, compared with a loss of \$1.46 billion, or \$2.55 per share, a year earlier. Quarterly revenue fell 11 per cent to \$19.56 billion from \$21.97 billion. For the full year, IBM reported a record annual loss of \$4.97 billion, or \$8.70 per share. In 1991, IBM lost \$2.86 billion, or \$5.01 per share. Revenue for the year fell 9.4 per cent to \$64.52 billion from \$64.77 billion.

Iraq says it lost \$44 billion exports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday losses resulting from a U.N. embargo on its oil exports mounted to \$44 billion by the end of last June.

"The economic losses suffered by Iraq as a result of the suspension of oil and oil product exports from August 1990 to the end of June 1992 reached \$44 billion," the government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah said quoting an oil ministry source.

The United Nations imposed

trade sanctions on Iraq soon after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Trade is still blocked, apart from imports of food and medicine.

The source said Irag's total production prior to U.N. sanctions was 3.25 million barrels per day (b/d) of which 2.75 million was for export. Its pre-sanctions OPEC production quota was 3.1

million b/d. Gulf war bombing inflicted damage worth \$1.9 billion on oil installations, the source said.

Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said Saturday that Iraq could produce three million b/d this year and aims to double that capacity by the year 2000.

France boosts cigarette tax 15%

PARIS (AP) — France increased taxes on cigarettes 15 per cent Monday, the first installment of a 30 per cent hike to discourage smoking and pay health care for smoking-related illnesses. The tax hike come 2½ months

after the government imposed tough laws barring smoking from public buildings and the workplace and forcing restaurants and cafes to create no-smoking zones. The tax increase will boost the price of a pack of Gauloises, France's famed black-tobacco France's state-owned tobacco

сопрапу, SEITA. Imported American cigarettes. which already cost nearly 12 francs (\$2.18), are not expected tobacco companies taking the difference from their profit margins. The increased revenue will

help the financially strapped social security service to pay the costs of smoking-related illnesses, and to subsidise the auto-racing industry, a victim of a new ban on cigarette advertising.

The tax will be raised another 15 per cent by the end of 1993. The cigarette tax hike is twinned with a 5-centime (1-cent) per litre tax increase on gasoline.

Jordan **Times** Tel: 667171

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to manage oil, gas

BELITNG (R) — China has sources and funds to transform founded a new state enterprise to manage its entire crude oil and natural gas business — from exploration, production and sales to

imports and exports. Xinhua News Agency said that Beijing wanted China National

"It will compete in exploring the international market using domestic and international re-

itself into a global industrial conglomerate," the agency said. The new company is jointly

owned by the China National Petroleum Corp and the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corp.

The agency said the state council, or cabinet, had given Sinoil the independent right to handle imports and exports and make investments overseas.

China founds Sinoil

prises in which the state had a was targeted by victor Amagou, majority stake had racked up speaking for the ruling PDCI

losses of nearly 100 billion CFA party's partiamentary group. All

francs (\$360 million), despite tot- but 10 of the assembly's 175 al government subsidies to the deputies are PDCI members, as

sector during that period of \$3.3 are both Mr. Quattara and Mr.

United Oil Corp (Sinoil) to become a major world player.

Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday Happy New Year

Oil Co. (ADNOC) to discuss joint projects. AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING RANK CHATER ANDONS -100 ARAB BANK JORDAN HATIONAL BANK BANK OF JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT JORDAN ISSURANCE UNITED INSURANCE ARBIJA SERA DISUR GENERAL ARBEITA INS JOEDAN FRENCE I LATU YARNOUK INSURANCE | BOLY LAMB THERMAN IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY
ARBS DISTRICT ELECTRICITY
ARBS DISTRUMATIONAL SHIPPING LIDES
FRATCHAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES
REAL BETATE INVESTMENT
JORGAN GOLF BEAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
PETRA ESTATORICES E ÉQUIPMENTS LÉASING
JORGAN INTERRATIONAL TRADING CENTRE
AUCHIMENT EQUIP. RESTING É MAINTENAME
JORGAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA'I
RETERD MIDDIE ENT É COMPROME
TRES JORGAN CHURST FACTORIES
JORGAN PROSPRATE NUESS JOHDAN PHOSPHATE MINES THE ARAB POTAGE JOHDAN PETROLEM REFINARY ARAB PHRIBECCUTICAL HARUPACTURING
JORDAN PIPES HARUPACTURING
THE FUBLIC MIRIUM
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERMENTS INDUSTRIES
SPIRNING & WENTING
LORDAN GLASS IRRUBERTES
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT
ARAB EMPESTMENT & INCESTIGAT
ARAB ALDICHIUM PHODSTEY
ARAB ALDICHIUM PHODSTEY
ARAB PAPER COMPERTING & TRADING
JORDAN EDUTCH COMPORATION
AUTOCAL SPULITY
ENTICOMAL INDUSTRIES
INTERMEDICAL CHEMICAL PRODSTEY
SERTICOMAL INDUSTRIES
UNTURRAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
UNTURRAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LONDON EXCHANGE RATES JOHNAN ROCKHOL, INDESTRIES
HIVERSAL CHRICAL DIDUSTRIES
JOHNAN INDUSTRIES & MAICH/SIMBO
JOHNAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRI
RETIONAL CARLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING
JOHNAN SILPHO-CHERICALS
ARB CRITER FOR PRIME & CHERICALS
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PHILADELPHIA Patrick Swayze and Demi Moor

GHOST

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The Fox And The Hound

AHLAN THEATRE

"Welcome New World Order" Play will reappear in a new presentation on

Bosnia's rebel Serbs face crucial war-or-peace vote on Geneva plan

PALE, Bosnia (R) — Bosnia's rebel Serbs faced a crucial vote Tuesday to endorse or reject an international settlement plan, a decision their leaders call a choice between peace or war.

The plan, drawn up in Geneva. is a blueprint for a post-war Bosnia divided into 10 autonomous provinces. The European Community last week warned the Bosnian Serbs to accept it by Tuesday - or face unspecified U.N. puni-

Deputies to the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament said the vote might hasten the end of a nine-month war, but they would not abandon a longterm dream of creating their own state.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has already endorsed the plan. But he faces opposition from radicals who insist on creating a Serb state within a state. already rejected by Geneva

The parliamentary session was due to start late in the afternoon (1500 GMT) in this picturesque ski resort, only 16 kilometres from the war-torn Bosnian capital of Saraievo.

First item on the agenda was a government reshuffle which, sources close to Mr. Karadzic said, was intended to enable easier adoption and implementation of the Geneva peace plan.

Karadzic is bolstering his position by circling himself with moderates," said one source who asked not to be named.

Mr. Karadzic's supporters say their main task is to persuade the radicals to accept the Geneva peace plan now — and resume their campaign for their own state after fighting ends.

'What we must now do is to convince the radicals to relinquish their dream of establishing a Serb state in Bosnia right now so we can survive, and have one later — rather than risking obli-

Haitians boycott election

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) - Haitians largely boycotted

parliamentary elections Monday as the military gave mixed signals on whether it was ready to negotiate a U.N.-sponsored

settlement to Haiti's political crisis. Army Lieutenant General

Raoul Cedras said in an interview broadcast on independent Radio Metropole that the military opposed the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He spoke as the military-

backed government proceeded with the election despite appeals

by foreign diplomats to postpone the vote pending progress in the

U.N. brokered negotiations. Haitian voters largely heeded

opposition calls to ignore the elections, which critics said were

designed to favour the existing de facto government. Gen.

Cedras, an organiser of the coup that deposed Mr. Aristide in

September 1991, appeared to move away from a U.N.-backed

framework for negotiations reached over the weekend. Special U.N. envoy Dante Caputo Sunday announced a breakthrough in

negotiations with the army and military-backed civilian govern-

ment. Mr. Caputo said each had given him a letter affirming their

support for talks aimed at restoring democracy, and for the

deployment of up to 500 international observers to monitor

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Tuesday freed four U.N. peacekeeping personnel held for two days in

central Cambodia, a U.N. spokesman said. The four men, a

British naval lieutenant-commander, a British Royal Marines

sergeant, a Chilean Marine lieutenant and a Cambodian interore-

ter, were safe and well, said Enc Falt, spokesman for the U.N.

pencekeeping operation in Cambodia. The peacekeepers were

members of a naval observer team, the latest of several groups of

U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) personnel

detained and then released by the Khmer Rouge since early December. They were held at midday Sunday while heading for a

pre-arranged meeting with a local Khmer Rouge commander in

central Kompong Thom province, scene of most of the detentions

and the worst ceasefire violations since the signing of Cambodian

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The space shuttle En-

deavour and its five astronauts returned to Earth Tuesday after a

six-day mission that helped prepare for building a space station

and fire youngsters' imaginations. The spaceship sailed through a

Khmer Rouge frees 4 U.N. personnel

"We must not do anything to provoke the U.S. or NATO to attack us, they are far too superior, but we must fight for our state with wisdom," he said. adding that radicals make up about 30 per cnet of the 87member assembly.

His view was echoed by Parliamentary President Momcilo Krajisnik.

"We must tread between the possible and the desired," he told Serbian Television.

Mr. Karadzic has the backing of Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, both anxious to end a U.N. embargo imposed on Serbia for its part in the war in

Bosnia. Within Bosnia, Mr. Karadzic also has the support of powerful military leaders Ratko Mladic and Momir Talic.

But deputies from Foca, where Serb Television recently reported a big massacre of Serbs by Muslims, rejected any concessions to their rivals.

"We cannot accept any divisions. We have no rights to accept it in the name of our 300 dead and 700 wounded." the Serb Demo-eratic Party of Foca said in a

Mr. Kalnic said the hardest task would be to allay any feelings of betrayal harboured by Bosnian Serbs on the frontline.

"We must convince the soldiers and their families that their comrades and sons and daughters have not died for nothing. This will be very, very very hard." Mr. Kalinic said.

Meanwhile, fresh casualties were reported in Muslim-Serb clashes in Bosnia and the embattled Muslim-led government said Tuesday it faced a new threat

vion and never having it." Health from Croat forces in the war-Minister Dragan Kalinic told ravaged former Yugoslav repub-

The Serb-besieged capital Sarajevo waas enjoying a relative lull, with electricity and water gradually returning to parts of the city, and the water queues start-

Laundry appeared on the baiconies of apartment blocks in parts of the city as weeks of dirty clothes finally got washed.
Sarajevo Radio opened its

broadcast with excerpts from an interview by Bosnia's Muslim President Alia Izetbegovic asking Croat forces to stop attacking Bosnian army units.

He called it a "new and separate aggression on Bosnia parallel to Serb aggression," and said the Bosnian leadership would meet to decide on whether to send a formal protest to the United Nations Security Council over the Croat actions.

The army of rump Yugoslavia — comprising Scrbia and Montenegro — claimed it killed a number of Bosnian Muslim troops in two incidents along the Bosnian-Serbian border on Monday, Belgrade-based Tanjug news

Muslim-Serb battles have raged in the border area along the River Drina, mainly centred around the Bosnian town of Skelani, for a week. Belgrade accuses the Muslims of escalating the war in order to wreck a peace plan

proposed in Geneva. Muslim forces fired nine mortar rounds from the Bosnian village of Kunjarac at the Serbian village of Graboyica Monday, Tanjug quoted a Yugoslav army statement as saying.

"Enemy weapons and troops were destroyed immediately. Our side suffered no wounded or

material damage." it said.
The army statement said seven

hazy sky and landed at the Kennedy Space Centre at 1337 GMT. A red, white and blue drag chute slowed its roll down the concrete

runway. "Welcome home. Congratulations on a super flight and a

great start to the shuttle '93 manifest," mission control's Kevin Chilton told the crew.

COLOMBO (R) - Tamil rebels killed five securitymen guarding

a village in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday, taking the death toll in the

district to 29 over the past 24 hours, military sources said. Three

soldiers and two village guards were killed in the shooting at

Athawatunawewa village in Mullaitivu district. Three soldiers

were injured. "There is unusually a lot of rebel activity in the

Mullaitivu district," one officer said, adding that separatist rebels

could not penetrate the army defence and get into the village. The

sources said they believed Tamil Tiger guerrillas carried out the

attack in retaliation for the death of a senior commander in a

suicide explosion aboard a ship that was intercepted by the Indian

Navy last week. The rebels ambushed an army patrol Monday,

killing 14 soldiers in the same cluster of villages. The military said

TAIPEI (AP) - A pre-dawn fire swept through an unlicensed

restaurant filled with diners in downtown Taipei Tuesday, killing

30 people and injuring 21 others, firemen reported. The death toll

was the highest from a fire-related disaster in Taiwan since 1979

when 34 people died in a gas explosion at a Taipei residential block caused by a fire. The Taipei Police Chief, Chen Hsueh-

Lien, said police were investigating whether the fire at the talking

about Love Restaurant was deliberately set. The fire began at the

restaurant's main entrance about 2 a.m. (1800 GMT Monday),

trapping about 60 customers and employees, police said. The

restaurant's two other exits were locked and blocked by furniture,

Reputed superboss denies mafia membership

ROME (R) - Salvatore "toto" Riina, the reputed superboss of

the mafia empire, has denied any involvement in the crime organisation, Italian newspapers said Tuesday. "I am not the

monster that you think, that everyone thinks," he was quoted as

saying during questioning by magistrates. "That monster does not

exist. What really exists is what you have before you, your honour, a poor, sick old man." "Your honour, I have never been

Rebels press attack in Sri Lanka

10 rebels were killed in the ensuing battle.

Restaurant fire kills 30 in Taiwan

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Muslims were killed later in the day when they tried to cross the frontier Drina River by boat. It said the army would respond energetically to attacks.

It quoted a doctor as saying 21 dead Serbs and 69 wounded from Skelani had been brought to the Serbian town of Bajina Basta since Saturday.

Fighting has also flared be-tween Muslim and Croat forces in west and central Bosnia over the past week in an apparent rush to grab territory before an internationally-brokered peace settlement is sealed.

Referring to Croat demands for control over Bosnian forces in some areas and the resulting fighting, Mr. Izetbegovic said: "This is the plan of people who have lost their minds," adding that the government knew the names of "war criminals" responsible for the attacks and that

they will be punished." We will meet and consider sending this case to the Security Council, to ask that this new aggression against Bosnia-Herzegoviona be punished and that sanctions be made ... We didn't want this, but we are at the end of the road and we don't have any other choice." Mr. Izetbegovic said.

The Bosnian government held a crisis session Tuesday to discuss the outbreak of fighting with their Croat allies and said international mediator Lord Owen had suggested both sides meet to calm he situation.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silaidzic said Lord Owen had telephoned during the threehour session to suggest talks which he would be willing to

"We spoke with Lord Owen and he is suggesting that everybody comes to Sarajevo to try and resolve this problem." Mr. Silajdzic told reporters.



Masako Owada smiles for photographers in Tokyo (AFP photo)

Japan palace approves Naruhito's engagement

empress said Tuesday she agonised over giving up her promis-ing diplomatic career for a cloistered palace life and agreed only when the crown prince vowed to back her through difficult times.

While Japan welcomed confirmation that Crown Prince Naruhito, 32, had finally found a princess after years of searching, the prospective bride, Masako Owada, revealed the decision had not been easy.

"I was given a lot of responsibility by the Foreign Ministry, and I agonised over the decision of whether to give up my work (for marriage)," she told a news conference after the palace officially appearance that the palace officially appearance that the palace officially appearance after the palace officially appearance that the palace of the palace cially announced her engagement to the prince.

"I was worned about life in the palace (as recently as) last November " said the multilingual Masako, educated at Harvard and Oxford universities.

"But his highness, who knew about my concerns, promised me that he would protect me with all his might," she said.

Ms. Masako, who had kept

Prince Naruhito waiting for eight months, said she finally decided to accept his proposal in early December after he confided that he too was worried she might not be happy inside the palace.

The 29-year-old Masako, daughter of Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, will become the first career woman and only the second commoner to marry an heir to the ancient chrysanthemum throne. Her future motherin-law, Empress Michiko, is the daughter of a wealthy industrial-

The daughters of some of Japan's best families, including Ms. Masako, reportedly shunned the idea of trading their freedom for a life within the confines of the tradition-bound palace.

Only too vivid in the memory of most Japanese is the plight of Empress Michiko. A beautiful debutante when she married in 1959, she grew gaunt and visibly unhappy under what media reports said were snubs by stuffy palace officials and her anstocratic mother-in-law, the current

empress dowager. Prince Naruhito said Ms. Masako would not face the same trials.

"That was more than 30 years ago and I don't think that Masako will have a difficult time," he said. "But if she does have problems, I will be at her side to back

Prince Naruhito denied reports that his mother had played a role in overriding opposition by palace courtiers to the choice of

"The emperor and empress left the decision of who I would wed

TOKYO (R) - Japan's future entirely up to me," he said. "The empress has never made her feel-

ings known."
Ms. Masako, who is one centimetre (less than half an inch) taller than Prince Naruhito's 1.63 metres (5 ft 4 inches), appared to have already made the transition from a suit and briefcase to staid palace fashion. She wore a yellow pillbox hat and matching satin dress and shoes at her first news conference with Prince Naruhito. Grand Steward Shoichi Fu-

imori, head of the palace, formally announced the marriage plans Tuesday and disclosed details of the events leading up to the royal engagement.

He said Prince Naruhito first became interested in Ms. Masako in 1986 and dated her four times over the next 18 months until the palace, concerned about Ms. Masako's family background, put an end to the budding romance.

The palace worried that her maternal grandfather. Yutaka Eeashira, had been president of Chisso Corp, responsible for the huge Minamata environmental pollution case of the 1960s.

Mr. Fujimori said that after failing to find a suitable candidate for princess by May 1992, desperate palace matchmakers decided that Ms. Masako would do after

"We had made efforts to select ess dut they dia not anything that would satisfy the prince," he said.

Ms. Masako's father, the Foreign Ministry's top civil servant, said he hoped his daughter would be able to use her experience as a diplomat after her marriage, expected in early June.

"I will be very happy if her experience at the Foreign Ministry becomes useful in one form or another in her future life," Ms. Owada told reporters at the Ministry.

Some palace aides are reportedly concerned that the confident Masako, who has spent half her life living abroad, will not adapt to the role of crown princess, which includes taking part in obscure religious rites and always walking several paces behind her husband

Ms. Masako, described as a brilliant student, graduated with honours in economics from Harvard in 1985. After a stint at Tokyo University's elite Law School, she was only one of three women among 28 candidates Ministry as a fast-track diplomat

The ministry sent her to Oxford University in 1988 for two years and, on her return, put her to work handling sensitive Japanese-U.S. trade negotia-

in 1987.

Angolan oil plants under rebel attack

LUANDA (R) — Angola's vital oil plants came under UNITA attack and diplomats reported heavy fighting Tuesday for rebel headquarters in the central highlands city of Huambo.

Diplomats said they believed UNITA rebels were encircling the northwestern oil town of Soyo after attacks on installations Monday which prompted the evacuation of scores of foreign oil workers and their families.

They said fighting still raged in the central provincial capital of Luena and at Menongue in the south, and UNITA forces were advancing towards Saurimo in the diamond-rich north. Thousands of men were battling for control of the country's second city, Huambo.

"Both sides are throwing whatever explosives they've got at Huambo," said one diplomat. "It appears UNITA has the upper hand. The city is key to the whole struggle for control and will be reduced to gravel when they're

At Soyo at the mouth of the Zaire (Congo) River, scores of foreign nationals linked to three big oil companies — Texaco Panama Inc. Angola, ELF Exploration Angola and Fina Pet-roleos Angola — had been safely evacuated to boats offshore, di-

State media said a French mechanic was killed Monday after his helicopter was fired on in Soyo, the mainly offshore oil town which accounts for more than a quarter of Angola's 500,000 barrels per day oil output, its main export.

The media said all foreign staff at Kwanda and Kinfukena bases had been evacuated, halting pro-

duction at the two sites.
It said UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) forces with support from white and Zairean mercenaries had stolen food and vehicles from Fina's Camp Eight and destroyed Pangala Park.

The diplomats said Soyo's oil dustry was particularly vulnerable because much of its petroleum was bunkered onshore. They believed UNITA late last

week had damaged some wells about 20 to 25 kilometres from the town. "The government has not been

ery successful in expelling UN-ITA from the area, but it appears that UNITA has not taken the town," said one diplomat. The government was rushing

by sea military reinforcements from the country's main offshore oil area. Cabinda, north of the Zaire River to defend Soyo.

The government said about 10,000 UNITA men were surrounding Huambo and a Sukhoi fighter plane was shot down Monday. The pilot was presumably captured by UNITA, it said. UNITA says more than 500 people have died in bitter fighting over the past week and that government forces have driven back and cannot defend themselves

much longer. The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and UNITA signed a peace accord in May 1991 which briefly ended their 16-year civil war in the former Portuguese colony and paved the way for the country's first multi-party elec-

But UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected the results of the September poll which he lost and began expelling local authorities from some 70 per cent of the

Queen, Charles taken ili LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles were

taken ill Monday and cancelled their appointments, Buckingham Palace said. The queen called off. a reception for elderly people and estate workers at Sandringham, where she spends the Christmas-New Year holidays. Prince. Charles had viral gastroenteritis and a high temperature, the palace said. The same virus had affected five other people at Sandringham, where Prince Charles was staying, but the palace did not say whether the queen was among those infected. Palace officials said Prince Charles cancelled his engagements on doctors' advice, calling it a precautionary measure and saying the illness was not serious.

Police search for missing Miss Whiplash

LONDON (R) — Britain's most famous prostitute, Lindi St Clair, has gone missing after threatening to expose politicians and officials who had paid her for sexual: favours. Police called off a helicopter search Monday at the base of a notorious cliff-top suicide spot at Beachy Head in southern England where her parked and locked Jaguar car was found. Fears for her safety grew when St Clair, who is known as Miss Whiplash and leads a fringe political group called the Corrective Party, failed to keep an appointment with journalists at the weekend in nearby Brighton to discuss her "dirt file" on politi-cians. Facing a £112,000 (\$173,200) tax bill, she was reported last week in the local paper, the Brighton Evening Argus, as saying she was going to name those who had been among clients at her sex and bondage chamber. "We have got to keep an open mind. We have got a car parked at a notorious suicide spot. We know who the occupant is. There are certain reasons why she could be threatened. We have got to establish where she is and how she is," a police spokesman said. One possibility being considered is that the disap could be a publicity stunt. Mr. St Clair, who launched her autobiography It's Only A Game — "The Game" is British slang for prostitution — last September, is an outrageous self-publicist and says she has had sex with 20,000 people, including more than 200 members of parliament. She has not named any of the MPS.

Swiss MP gets 45 nights in jail

ZURICH (R) — Swiss politician Andreas Gross will lead a double life for six weeks - spending his nights in jail as a convict and his days in parliament as an elected deputy. A court has so ruled because the MP refused to serve two days a year in the Swiss Civil Defence Corps which maintains the neutral nation's network of underground fallout shelters. The court said Mr. Gross, a Social Democrat and leader of a group calling for the disbanding of the Swiss army, would spend 45 nights in jail for his refusal, but be allowed to attend parliament during the day. Mr. Gross, whose sentence begins from mid-September, must also spend weekends behind bars. He contested the ruling in Switzerland's highest court, arguing that civil defence is an unnecessary relic of the cold war, but his appeals failed. "This is another case of a Swiss anachronism," Mr. Gross told reporters.

13.

Armenians keep warm by burning Communist classics

MOSCOW (R) - Armenians are

burning tonnes of Communist literature to keep warm as fuel stocks in the former Soviet republic plunge to increasingly desper-ate levels, the local Snark News Agency said. Residents of the capital Yerevan started burning their libraries last year as shortages of gas and firewood began to bite. Theoretical journals and newspapers were among the first to go. "In these circumstances, special preference is being given to complete works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, which because of their hard covers burnlonger and give off more warmth," the agency said. The Transcaucasian state's energy problems stem mostly from a blockade of gas supplies from neighbouring Azerbaijan, with which Armenia has been fighting an undeclared war over a disputed territory. Unrest in Georgia and the northern Caucasus has worsened shortages by disrupting oil and gas supplies from

Inaugural hoopla plunges Clinton into trial by fire protect and defend the constitufor U.S. asylum against a stern For him, the end of 35-year White House.

part of cosa nostra," the 62-year-old Riina said.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — America changes leaders with pomp and razzle-dazzle Wednes- me God," a key military aide in day, plunging Bill Clinton into a the crowd will instantly turn from world of crises, blazing guns and fateful decisions.

peace accords in October 1991.

Shuttle lands in Florida

chief superpower, inheriting a pile of woes different from the campaign issues when he defeated President George Bush last November.

Mr. Bush, a World War II veteran, hands over power and a trial by fire to the third-youngest U.S. president and the first from the post-war "baby boom" generation.

William Jefferson Clinton, 46, led his party back to the White House with a campaign geared to one way slogan, declaring the top issue: "The economy, stupid."

All the economic problems that helped him oust Republican Bush — runaway deficits, a sluggish though stirring economy, unemployment - remain for Mr. Clinton, who once promised to unveil a recovery programme the day after he took office but is now backing off that pledge.

As Mr. Clinton finishes his one-sentence oath to "preserve, tion of the United States, so help the old president to the new one. Attached to his wrist is a lock-

The former governor of Arkan- ed satchel known as "the footsas becomes leader of the world's ball." It contains the codes a president can use to start nuclear war. The ever-present "doomsday" kit is a reminder for Mr. Clinton that his headaches now are global.

U.S. and allied warplanes hit Iraqi targets and shot down Iraqi planes barely 48 hours before his inaugural in a clash that has escalated from words to weapons in one week.

Americans were treated to alternating televised spectacles of anti-aircraft fire sparkling above Baghdad and fireworks sparkling above Washington. As Iragis sounded attack

alarms, Mr. Clinton's 12-year-old daughter, Chelsea, rang a symbolic liberty bell with a crimson The revived Iraqi crisis only barely overshadowed the drama

of U.S. troops patrolling lawless

Somalia, a civil war in wintry

Bosnia, and Haitians clamouring

by Mr. Clinton too. Less vivid but possibly even more crucial were the tasks of promoting a solvent and stable post-Communist Russia and restarting a stalled Middle East

peace process. None of this stopped America from partying. Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary, Vice President Al Gore and their families soaked up the adulation of hundreds of thousands of well-wishers at celebrations in an inaugural dub-

bed "an American reunion." But the backdrop of pressing international crisis gave this inaugural a tension its own. Just as Mr. Clinton sought to concentrate on domestic policy, it seemed as if international events were calling to Washington: "The

world, stupid." If that message is too faint, Mr. Clinton need only look at his predecessor for a hint of the pressures of his new job.

Mr. Bush, at 68 usually vigorous and athletic, has developed a deeply creased, haggard look. He seems weary, and perhaps bitter. reviewing stand outside the compared to 23 per cent who error.

no-go policy invoked by Mr. political career will come to an Bush — and now, in a turnabout, end at midday (1700 GMT) end at midday (1700 GMT) Wednesday, followed by a ride to retirement in Texas aboard a jetliner formerly designated Air Force One.

A glittering presidential gala is planned for Tuesday night with a Hollywood razzmatazz Ronald Reagan might envy, including such stars as Barbra Streisand and Jack Nicholson. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush will

launch oath-taking formalities together, with a traditional cup of coffee at the White House and a ride in the armoured presidential limousine to Capitol Hill. First Mr. Gore, a 44-year-old

former Tennessee senator, and then Mr. Clinton will take their Then Mr. Clinton will deliver an inaugural address marking the passing of a generational torch from leaders forged in the experi-

ence of the great depression and

World War II to those from the

free-wheeling, free-loving, protest-oriented sixties. The Clintons will watch the inauguration day parade - agaudy stream of Americana — from a

After a night of ballroom dancing, Mr. Clinton can settle down in the Oval Office, its walls bare of Bush mementoes but its big mahogany desk piled high with his leftover problems. Americans, by more than two

to one, now have a more favourable opinion of Mr. Clinton than they did before his November election, according to two new polls released Monday. A CBS News/New York Times

poll said 45 per cent questioned have a good opinion of Mr. Clinton while 19 per cent rate him unfavourably. Before the election, 40 per cent rated him favourably while 41 per cent did An ABC News/Washington

Post poll of 1,510 adults with a three percentage point margin of error had similar findings. It said 68 per cent viewed Mr. Clinton favourably, up 12 points since the election, 60 per cent

per cent approved of his handling of the transition. Over half feel he will do a better job than George Bush,

liked his cabinet choices and 81

thought that Mr. Bush would do better than former President Ronald Reagan.
The CBS/New York Times poll showed that 57 per cent believe Mr. Clinton will be able to bring

about needed changes, up from 41 per cent before the election. By more than three to one, Americans are optimistic about what Mr. Clinton will accomplish in office and 59 per cent believe he will be able to improve the economy against 31 per cent who

think it is beyond his control. The poll said foreign policy remains Mr. Clinton's weakest Although 49 per cent now think he can handle an international crisis, up from 27 per cent

before the election, this does not approach the kind of confidence Americans have always had in Mr. Bush, the poil said. It added that two out of five Americans are still uneasy about

Mr. Clinton's capabilities in such The CBS/New York Times poll of 1,179 adults was conducted by telephone on Jan. 12 to 14 and had a three per cent margin of

Meanwhile, as the days dwindled to hours, George Bush the man with the golden resume - was ready to relinquish his presidency and step out of the government career that occupied third of his life. His departure ends a 12-year Republican hold on the White

House that both opened and closed against a backdrop of U.S. consternation and peril in the Middle East. Former President Jimmy Carter's nemesis was Iran; Bush's is Iraq. Returning Monday from his last weekend at Camp David, Md., as the nation's commander-

military, U.S. allies, and his Democratic successor for bonding together behind his punitive strikes against Iraq. "They did the right thing. We did the right thing," he said. "I again thank our new president for

in-chief, Mr. Bush saluted the

his strong support."

It was a federal holiday and the White House staff - already trimmed by resignations — was sparse. But the Bush loyalists came out to greet the president

and his wife. "Good-bye, Mr. President" someone shouted.